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AGRICULTURE GENERAL — 1995

JANUARY — MAY.

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FILE AS THOUGH YOU WERE READING
A BOOK!

I HAD TO RE-SORT AGAIN, IT IS
REALLY ~~AND~~ UNFAIR!

By ORDER.!

Nod for food strategy

PRESIDENT of the Orange Free State Agricultural Union Dr Piet Gous has backed a request that the Government consult African states in a bid to combat famine and the food crisis in the sub-Saharan region.

Reacting to a statement by Transvaal Agricultural Union president Mr Lries Bruwer on Saturday, in which he called for the consultation, Gous yesterday agreed that a food strategy in cooperation with African states should be formulated for the famine-plagued sub-Saha-

ran region. ^{(3) Sowetans 3/11/95}
Gous said in a statement: "It is also of great importance for world welfare organisations and donor countries to be included in the formulation of a food strategy to prevent the importation of white maize contaminated with pesticides."

Bruwer said the sub-Saharan region was in the grip of a severe drought.

He said South Africa, with its agricultural expertise, could play a role in curbing food crisis and human suffering in the region. — Sapa.

W Cape farmers await land tax legislation

CT 4/11/95 (3) ~~3~~

Municipal Reporter

WESTERN CAPE farmers are bracing themselves for a new land tax to pay for rural local government structures.

But, depending on how the provincial legislation turns out, the move may not be fiercely resisted.

Western Province Agricultural Union general manager Mr Gert Bosch said yesterday that under the old divisional council system farms had paid rates.

Farm rates had always been far below urban rates.

Under the old system rural property rates had been spent on local services and infrastructure, which "made them acceptable to the farmers".

Under the later regional services council system farms had been levied as businesses.

"We want any new property tax in the rural areas to replace these existing levies and not be added to them," he said.

"We will make our input. We are just waiting for the draft legislation."

Local Government Minister in the Western Cape Mr Peter Marais has said the proposed legislation will be tabled next month during the next sitting of the provincial parliament.

Meanwhile, rural local authority boundaries are being drawn throughout the province, Mr Bosch said.

the most valuable resource

Water scarcity a global threat

③ *Stewart*
5/1/95

WATER is being misused and is becoming increasingly scarce, says the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Water is a finite natural resource, of which 97 percent is salt water and 1,76 percent frozen in icecaps, permafrost and glaciers.

That leaves only 0,74 percent of fresh water for human consumption. Still, that is enough to provide 1 800 cubic metres of water a year for each person in the world, according to FAO statistics, while average water consumption is only 800 cubic metres.

But although globally water is still sufficient, regionally there are areas which are running dry.

Apart from climate variations, human action is the prime cause of scarcity.

An FAO study says the natural purifying action of the hydrological cycle can no longer cope with pollution. Land degradation through deforestation and overgrazing is also reducing both the quantity and quality of water.

And since water is a finite resource, every time the population doubles, its availability per head of the population halves. The availability of freshwater for each person in Africa has fallen from 20,6 cubic metres in 1950 to 5,1 cubic metres. In Asia it has decreased from 9,6 cubic metres to 3,3 cubic metres.

With the world population growing by 80 million a year, says the FAO, there may not be enough water for all.

The organisation's grim projections

show Africa as being hardest hit, with water scarcity, poverty and a high population growth forming a tragic combination.

In 1990, says the organisation, 26 countries, including most of northern, eastern and southern Africa, were suffering from water scarcity. "At present some 300 million people are affected but this number may increase tenfold by 2025."

It is predicted that by the year 2000 some countries, including Burundi, Rwanda, Botswana and Singapore will be water-scarce.

Where there is scarcity, politics follow, raising the possibility of conflict. "As the populations expand and economies grow, competition for limited supplies will intensify in many countries."

Twelve of the world's most important rivers are shared between 90 countries. There are few agreements regulating the use of water, so the downstream countries often depend on the goodwill of those upstream.

In its possible solutions the FAO places greatest emphasis on agriculture, which in 1990 used 65 percent of global water.

Irrigated agriculture is gradually replacing rain-fed agriculture, for it is twice as productive. However, water in most irrigation systems is lost at very stage between the source and the crop.

The FAO's first appeal is for the improvement of irrigation efficiency.

Recycling waste water for irrigation is another suggestion. This is already done in China, Egypt, Jordan and Israel and is proving cost-effective. — *Gemini News*.

Short list released for land commission posts

PRETORIA — The Land Affairs Ministry yesterday released a short list of nominations for the planned Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom last year invited the public to nominate candidates for appointment as land claims commissioners.

A selection panel compiled the list of 16 candidates, including academics, lawyers and officials of non-government organisations.

It includes attorneys Wallace Mgoqi of the Cape Town Legal Resources Centre, Wouter Hugo Jordaan from Kuruman, and Marchand de Kok from Bloemfontein.

Academics listed are Prof Aubrey Clifton Redlinghuis of the University of the Western Cape, Cheryl Walker of the University of Natal, and Dr Peter Mayende of the University of Transkei. **BD 6/1/95**

Non-government organisation officials are Josette Cole, director of the Cape-based Surplus People's Project, Johannes Rantete, co-ordinator of the National Housing Forum, Emma Mashinini, a trustee of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, and Harald Winkler, a field worker for the East London-based Border Rural Action Committee. **(3) (277)**

Others on the list are researcher Mary Simons, educationist Dr SK Matseke, SA Communication Services assistant director Joe Seremane, SA Council of Churches official Rev Mamabolo Radifadi Raphesu, Johannesburg land surveyor Werner Kirchhoff, and Buntu Boniface Mfenyana of the Queenstown Education and Training Forum. The public is invited to attend interviews with the candidates on January 12 and 13 in Pretoria. — Sapa.

Hanekom releases shortlist for land claims commission

3 (4) star 6/11/95

The Ministry of Land Affairs released a shortlist of nominations for the planned commission on the restitution of land rights yesterday.

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Others on the list are Mary Simons, Dr SK Matseke, Joe Seremane, the Rev Mamabolo Radifadi Raphesu, Werner Kirchoff and Buntu Boniface Mfenyana.

The public can attend interviews with the candidates next Thursday and Friday in Pretoria.

Written comments should be faxed to (012) 341-4188. — Sapa.

Further water restrictions likely, says government

③ BD 9/1/95

BONILE NGQIYAZA

THE Northern Transvaal was experiencing one of the worst droughts on record and water restrictions were likely to be extended further, the Water Affairs and Forestry Department said at the weekend.

The department said no water was being released for irrigation quotas and water to villages was restricted to 60% to 70% of normal usage.

Spokesman Marie Ashpole said water crisis committees had been formed in the Northern Transvaal and Eastern Transvaal.

Department spokesman in Pietersburg Dawie Westhuizen said the Bloemhof Dam servicing irrigation schemes in the Transvaal and Free State was at a low level of 8,07%. The Vaal and Sterkfontein dams, which provided for the metropolitan areas of Gauteng, stood at 15,68% and 78,88% respectively, he said.

The Northwest, KwaZulu/Natal and Free State were also experiencing strict restrictions and only the Eastern Cape had a less severe drought, the department said.

A spokesman for the Umgeni Water Board in Maritzburg said the evaporation levels were the highest in a number of years.

The SA Agricultural Union said last week it would meet Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk at the end of the month to work out a solution to farming problems.

The Agriculture Department said last month it had no plans to reinstate the hundreds of thousands of rands in drought aid withdrawn several years ago. It said farmers had to plan for droughts and regard them as a normal risk factor.

Van Niekerk said crop farmers were worst hit by the drought. "I fear it might already be too late for them

even if rains do come down."

Financial assistance in the purchase and transport of feed for stock farmers and reasonable loan terms could help to tide farmers over during the bad times, Van Niekerk said. He also suggested repayments on debts be extended.

Sapa reports that the Free State and Transvaal agricultural unions warned that drought was threatening the livelihood of thousands of farm workers.

Free State Agricultural Union president Piet Gouws said he had requested an urgent meeting with Van Niekerk and political parties.

He criticised the Agriculture Department for "unnecessary red tape in supporting and finalising applications for aid".

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said government assistance was crucial to prevent famine. Early forecasts indicated this season's harvest could be almost 50% less than normal levels.

He said farmers were cultivating reduced tracts of land and only needed half of the normal workforce for the rest of the season.

However, both unions have appealed to farmers not to dismiss labourers and to continue to supply them with rations.

"Government aid will determine whether farmers will be able to comply with this request," Gouws said.

Bruwer has appealed to financial institutions not to demand repayment of accumulated debt from farmers in drought-stricken areas.

He said it was in the interests of commercial banks and food producers that established farmers continued producing.

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El Nino effect leaves SA farmlands high and dry

PRETORIA — More than three-quarters of SA has received less than its average rainfall this summer and large tracts of the country less than half. (3) 15/10/11/95

Acting director of climatology at the Weather Bureau in Pretoria Mike Laing said yesterday the phenomenon responsible was El Nino, a condition which developed every few years when water temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean became higher than usual.

He said El Nino should peak within a month and then taper off, bringing hope of better summer rains next season.

El Nino distorted Pacific weather patterns by drawing the tropical rainbelt eastwards to the ocean's central region. This had the effect of displacing global weather patterns, he said.

For southern Africa this meant below-average rainfall.

Laing said pockets in Gauteng, Eastern Transvaal and the south, southeastern and eastern coastal areas had received normal or above-normal rainfalls.

Heightened aridity had, he said, given rise to fires in the Dordrecht and Molteno areas of the Eastern Cape where large tracts of grazing were destroyed yesterday and on Sunday.

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) painted a grim picture of meat and crop prospects unless rain fell soon.

SAAU executive director Piet Swart said summer crop plantings had been possible on only two-thirds of available acreage.

He said the SAAU was preparing a survey for

a meeting with Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk on January 26.

In some areas there had been no plantings and in areas where crops had been planted more rain was needed if there were to be reasonable harvests. With dams empty or at low levels, irrigation areas were causing concern.

He said KwaZulu/Natal, Eastern and Northern Transvaal were "quite bad", but the drought was worst in the northern and southern areas of the Transvaal Lowveld.

In stock production areas crop failure could mean a shortage of winter fodder. Grazing was generally in poor condition.

In the extensive red meat areas of northwestern Cape and northwestern Transvaal some places could only be described as disaster areas, he said.

The Water Affairs and Forestry Department said yesterday it had requested additional government funds to alleviate the plight of the drought-stricken Northern Transvaal inhabitants. The department said crisis committees were functioning in the province as well as in Eastern Transvaal and KwaZulu/Natal.

Meanwhile, the Early Warning Unit of the 11-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC), stretching from Tanzania to SA, warned that the entire region faced a critical water shortages if sustained rains did not fall in the next two months.

The unit said crop harvests in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, SA, Zambia and Zimbabwe were now critically dependent on heavy rains. — Sapa-Reuter.

192 000 people likely to benefit

RDP water supply project on track ³

■ BY PATRICK WADULA

More than 190 000 people in the Northern Transvaal and the North West province are to receive water supplies as part of several Reconstruction and Development Programme projects to be launched countrywide over the next few weeks.

Announcing this in Pretoria yesterday, the Rural Development Task Team said the move marked the start of what the RDP office saw as "the year of delivery".

Construction in North West of the Moretele 1 Water Supply Scheme would begin next month, according to the team.

Water from the Apies and Pienaars rivers would be blended, purified and piped to more than 130 000 people.

The other project involved the supply of treated water to more than 62 000 people in 18 villages in the Kutuma/Sinthumule area of Northern Transvaal.

Plans for other projects were being finalised by the RDP office and provincial authorities. These projects were among 22 announced by President Mandela in Parliament last year.

The projects would be funded from the R2,5 billion set aside for the RDP's 1994/95 financial year.

RDP office chief director Tanya Abrahamse-Lamola said:

5/11/1995
"We have spent the past few months doing intensive planning to ensure that when these projects get off the ground they will be managed efficiently."

She said the projects had now reached the stage where physical work on the ground had become a reality, and that people could see that the process of delivery had begun in earnest.

The South African National Defence Force reported at the same meeting that it was ready to work closely with the RDP and the task team to identify areas where the defence force could help.

► Showers fail to break drought — Page 6

Drought threat to GDP growth

LOUISE COOK

THE drought was threatening to knock SA's GDP growth and would force government to dip into scarce funds to meet the needs of subsistence farmers without food and water, economists and agricultural experts said yesterday.

Agriculture Department acting director-general Chris Blignaut said the Cabinet would be approached by the Agriculture and Water Affairs departments to grant drought relief aid. The SA Agricultural Union would also meet Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk on January 26 to discuss drought aid measures.

Aid was likely to take the form of job creation schemes rather than direct financial assistance because the drought had affected rural food supplies. Many of the rural unemployed who normally produced their own food for household consumption could no longer do so.

The Water Affairs and Agriculture departments lacked money even for the current "relatively limited" drought relief aid of providing drinking water, sinking boreholes and laying water pipelines, Blignaut said.

Agriculture Department deputy director Dirk Valentine said that many emergency drought relief meetings had been held. (3)

"Millions of rands would be needed to address the problem, but farmer's debt would no longer form the basis for relief." BD 13/1/95

Valentine said the Free State, Northwest and Northern Transvaal "seemed to be the worst hit."

Economists said the current drought could cause the country's growth rate to drop sharply from the predicted 3% this year.

Agricultural economist Herman van Papendorp said yesterday the

predicted 1995 growth rate of 3% could fall to 2% as capital expenditure and the spending power of millions of farmworkers in the agricultural sector were severely trimmed. Although the agricultural sector's contribution to GDP was 4,5%, the sector's indirect effect was considerably higher.

But a lag effect from last year's favourable climatic conditions, which ended in a bumper maize crop of 12,5-million tons, could still spill over into 1995, cushioning the drought blow, he said.

Van Papendorp said the drought had hit production in all sectors.

Absa economist Chris Mostert said estimates pointed to the drought reducing the growth rate by 0,5 percentage points to 2,5%.

He warned that some rural communities would be hard hit. Many farmers would suffer cash flow problems and farm labourers would experience economic hardship.

More than 6-million tons of maize were required for domestic consumption, but production could be as low as 4-million tons.

"But the country will not have to import large amounts of maize as the Maize Board recently stopped all further exports of white maize. This will also mean considerable savings in foreign exchange."

But Mostert said it was unfair that farmers had to carry the cost of storing staple food for the nation.

SAAU deputy director Kobus Kleynhans said the union was still trying to determine the extent of drought damage. He said the drop in the estimated growth rate could "easily be between 0,5 and 1percentage points".

Probe into 'irregular' R15,5-m Agribank loan

③ ~~2~~ ~~1~~ ~~1~~
JOHANNESBURG. — The North-West government is investigating allegations of an irregular R15,5 million loan transaction made by the province's Agribank while the bank was under the control of former MEC for agriculture Rockey Malebane-Metsing.

According to a report by finance weekly *Finansies en Tegniek*, Mr Malebane-Metsing allegedly used his influence to grant the loan without any securities or guarantees to a Norman Escoffery, who was allegedly sought for fraud in the United States.

The North-West government said in a statement preliminary investigations into the allegations "confirmed that the channels normally followed in processing applications of loans were not followed and thus irregular. Despite legal opinion given to senior (Agribank officials against the

granting of this loan, Mr Escoffery's loan was still approved".

The government said it had appointed a high-powered investigating team to urgently probe and report its findings.

"The government commits itself to a transparent process in which all implicated parties will be brought to book."

According to the *Finansies en Tegniek* report, Mr Escoffery used the money to buy a bankrupt foodprocessing plant called North Hills farm, situated between Pretoria and Johannesburg. The company's name was later changed to Liberty Foods.

Agribank, founded 15 years ago by the former Bophuthatswana government and private sector investors, was managed by a board of directors until last year's April election, when it fell under the direct control of the new North-West government's MEC for agriculture.

The bank was supposed to

~~sets~~
grant loans exclusively to farmers in the province.

According to *Finansies en Tegniek*, Mr Escoffery spent substantial amounts of money decorating his company's offices and hosted a party attended by North-West and Mozambican VIPs.

He reportedly bought a house in Pretoria and a luxury German sedan.

Some of his money apparently came from a R3 million overdraft at First National Bank, which Agribank allegedly guaranteed.

Acting North West premier Johannes Tselapedi has admitted knowledge of the irregular grant, but had refused to say anything about Mr Malebane-Metsing's alleged involvement.

Approached for comment, Mr Malebane-Metsing remained tightlipped except to say he would respond to the allegations later. — Sapa.

Thousands face drought disaster on citrus farms

TZANEEN. — The Letaba district of Northern Transvaal faces citrus export losses of R180 million this year and the jobs 8 000 to 10 000 farmworkers are in jeopardy, Edward Vorster, Letaba Agricultural Union chairman, said.

Tzaneen Dam, the main irrigation water supply dam, and others were dry and there were severe water restrictions.

Mr Vorster said about 600 000 citrus trees had died over the past two seasons and that citrus farmers had already lost R260 million in foreign earnings over the past three seasons.

Citrus farmers were being urged to try to retain their workers, many of whom had lived on

ARC 14/11/95
the farms for years, by employing them for a few days a week to keep them going.

Losses of litchi, mango and banana crops had been proportionally as bad.

"Litchi and mango tree losses have been heavy," he said.

"We are most concerned about the future of the total workforce of about 30 000 people of the northern lowveld."

Organised agriculture had already approached the Northern Transvaal legislature for assistance for the farmworkers in the form of rations out of the funds of the reconstruction and development programme.

"We believe they are working on it," he said.

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The huge loss of income of the farmers was having a ripple effect on industries and businesses throughout the region because agriculture was the base of the economy.

Mr Vorster said that, given the time it took for citrus trees to reach production, a proper recovery could start only in about eight years.

The National Department of Agriculture said in a statement yesterday subsidies were to be made available to farmers in the Letaba district to overcome a drinking water crisis.

The subsidies are for the transport of drinking water, sinking boreholes and the erection of emergency pipelines. — Sapa.



HANEKOM'S TEAM . . . panelists Mojanku Gumbi, Barley Sibisi, candidate Johannes Rantete and panelist Louise Tager

Candidates vie for land commission's shortlist

By TENDAI DUMBUTSHENA

THE five commissioners who will consider land claims filed by the dispossessed will be chosen from 15 candidates interviewed in Pretoria this week.

The public and press were invited to witness the interviews with the 15 candidates, all vying to be on a final shortlist of eight from which Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom will select five commissioners.

Chaired by Barley Sibisi, adviser to Mr Hanekom, the panel interviewing the candi-

dates comprised Louise Tager, Mojanku Gumbi, Bonile Jack, Aninka Claassens, Nic Olivier and Appie Steenkamp.

Candidates were chosen on their ability to understand the legal intricacies of land claims, their mediation skills and their knowledge of the history of land dispossessions since 1913, the cut-off point for claims lodged with the commission.

The commissioner and his deputy will sit in Pretoria, the others in Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Maritzburg.

The land commission, expected to be in

operation by March, will process claims from communities and individuals who suffered land expropriation at the hands of former governments.

By mediating in claims, the commission also hopes to reduce the number of disputes reaching the land claims court.

The Restitution of Land Rights Act, passed at the end of last year, allows the commission to seek other forms of compensation when land cannot be restored.

All claims must be lodged within three years of establishment of the commission.

(3) (2) STIS/1195

Drama as AWB block land sale

By WALLY MBHELE

MEMBERS of the AWB allegedly stopped people of the Kekana tribe of the northern Transvaal from occupying a farm they claim to have bought from a white man in the vicinity of Hammanskraal this week, accusing them of trespassing.

Chief Daniel Kekana said because of overcrowding in his village, his tribe had decided to buy a farm from a certain L Pienaar and were not aware that the AWB would refuse them entry to the farm.

In a letter to Pienaar, lawyers for JRM Building Construction accused Pienaar of illegally selling the farm bordering Rooibank, Haakdoornfontein farm and Welgevonden to "squatters" where

their client was planning to build a pleasure resort and hotel.

In an attempt to diffuse the already volatile situation, reminiscent of the AWB attack on Goedgevonden squatters, the Hammanskraal police this week arranged a meeting between the two groups.

However, members of the Kekana Executive Royal Council failed to show up at the meeting on Thursday night at the Hammanskraal Police Station where gun-toting AWB members were present in large numbers.

Sources at the station told City Press Chief Kekana and members of his council did not attend the meeting as it was not planned to be a "mass meeting".

They said the chief had been informed about the "horrifying" extent to which AWB members were

armed and the possibility of violence against him and his delegation should they have attended the meeting.

Journalists from City Press and the Pretoria News were chased away by angry members of the AWB at the meeting who said they did not want to see anyone who did not speak "*die Afrikaanse taal*".

The newsmen were thrown out in full view of a khaki-clad police captain, who did nothing to stop the AWB.

The captain told City Press the meeting was private.

"If I allow you to attend this meeting, these people are going to feel prejudiced. I'm sorry gentlemen," he said.

To avoid trouble both City Press and Pretoria News journalists left the meeting.

③ CP 15/1/95

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Clarity on plans urged

LOUISE COOK

THE Transvaal Agriculture Union, representing 12 000 white farmers, has urged banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and educational institutions to state whether they had plans to do business with a future Afrikaner volkstaat. (3)

Union president Dries Bruwer said: "It is imperative that the agricultural sector knows which resources it can use once a volkstaat is formed."

Bruwer said the envisaged volkstaat would need its own Afrikaans university and technikon.

The sector needed to clarify issues such as the economy, education, communication, safety, labour and international relations of a volkstaat. BD 16/1/95

The SA Sugar Industry Association resigned from the SA Agricultural Union last year, taking with it thousands of rand in membership fees in protest against the union's stand on admitting black farmers.

CP to take part in municipal election

PRETORIA — Conservative Party leader Ferdi Hartzenberg said on Saturday the party would be taking part in the municipal election.

The CP was thus allowing its people to unite with regards to freedom and self-determination at local government level. The CP regarded it as an important step towards sovereign independence for a people's republic.

The party did not take part in the 1994 general election because it validated the transitional constitution.

Participation in the municipal elections would be the ideal opportunity to heal the breach in the ranks of Afrikanerdom; prove that the majority of Afrikaners wanted to be free; prove that the majority of Afrikaners were not interested in any "diluted form of cultural self-determination in a unitary state under an ANC/SACP government"; and prove support of and strengthen demand for a people's republic.

He conceded the ANC/SACP alliance would achieve a majority of elected councillors, but said: "By participating the CP can fight for local authorities for our own communities and for the granting of greater powers over matters such as education,

BD 16/1/95
culture, health and other functions to such authorities. Greater autonomy at local level will be the beginning of a process which could lead to full freedom."

Participation for candidates was, however, subject to criteria such as giving a written undertaking not to be elected to any executive position within municipal councils where the CP was not in control. The candidate would have to resign as councillor should he not adhere to the rule.

Hartzenberg discarded the idea of a coalition with the NP as "the weakest form of politics" and stressed the party would be going it alone in the election.

The CP Youth welcomed the decision, saying the election provided an opportunity to put in place "resistance structures".

The decision was "greeted with regret" yesterday by the Boerestaat Party.

Party leader Robert van Tonder said "we Boers" had refused to take part in the April election because 3,5-million Boer people could not compete with a voters' role of 20-million.

Now Hartzenberg was doing precisely the same thing that resulted in Freedom Front leader Constand Viljoen being branded a traitor. — Sapa.

NEWS Normal channels in processing loan applications 'not followed'

Agribank's loan probed

3 ~~16/1/95~~
Sowetan 16/1/95



Rocky Malebane-Metsing was MEC in charge of agriculture and also in direct control of Agribank.

By Josias Charle

THE North-West provincial government has begun with an investigation to reveal how a foreign businessman was awarded a R15,5 million loan by the province's agricultural bank.

The loan was granted while Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing was MEC in charge of agriculture and also in direct control of Agribank.

The bank was established 15 years ago by the former Bophuthatswana government to help struggling farmers in the area.

Jamaican origin

Mr Norman Escoffery, who is believed to be of Jamaican origin, was apparently granted the loan with no guarantee of security.

And it is believed Malebane-

ROCKY ROAD Malebane-Metsing allegedly had role in the matter:

Metsing played an influential role to have it approved.

Probing the matter

Acting North-West premier the Reverend Johannes Tselapedi announced at the weekend that a "high powered" investigating team was probing the matter and it was expected to report its findings soon.

"The government commits itself to a transparent process in which all implicated parties will be brought to book," said Tselapedi, adding that channels normally followed in processing loan applications were not followed.

"Despite legal opinion given to senior bank officials against the grant-

ing of this loan, it was still approved," he said.

Several months after the loan had been granted, Malebane-Metsing fell out of favour with premier Mr Popo Molefe and he was relieved of his post.

The loan granted to Escoffery was used to purchase a factory known as North Hills Farms near Pretoria. It is now known as Liberty Foods.

Relationship

The extent of the relationship between Malebane-Metsing and Escoffery is not known but the former MEC has already denied wrongdoing in the matter.

The businessman could not be reached for comment.

SA 'lags behind' in chemical control

BD 17/11/95
LOUISE COOK

SA LAGGED behind the rest of the world in chemical control, agricultural sources said yesterday.

SA sold the same amount of agricultural chemicals as any First World country, but lacked sophisticated measures to limit chemical build-up.

Agriculture Department sources said chemical misuse by farmers, and "black drum" substances — pirated from the genuine product and sold by some "smaller companies" — had caused havoc in the industry.

In some cases farmers' chemical applications to crops had been 10 times higher than the legal amount. This pushed input costs up and reduced crop quality.

"Farmers obtain pirate products cheaply without proper advice on how to use them. Misuse and overapplication have caused extensive insect resistance."

Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals Association director Jan Kleynhans denied such substances were available in SA.

"SA has one of the best control systems in the world. About five working groups appointed by industry regularly monitor resistance levels."

Kleynhans said R760m was spent on agricultural chemicals in 1993.

"Sales figures have been consistent for at least the past three years."

SA's chemicals ombudsman Max Orban also dismissed the claims but conceded that, while not many farmers were guilty, it was difficult to track transgressors down.

Land: Hanekom will choose

STW 17/1/95

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

③ Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom is expected to advise the Cabinet tomorrow of his choice of five commissioners charged with mediating the claims of people deprived of their land on racial grounds. Bahle Sibisi, an adviser

to Hanekom and chairman of the panel which screened nominees for the Land Restitution Commission, said yesterday the panel had whittled the 15 candidates down to eight names.

The 15 candidates are Wallace Mgoqi, Professor Aubrey Clifton Redlinghuis, Josette Cole, Wouter

Hugo Naude Jordaan, Johannes Matshutshu Rantete, Marchand de Kok, Mary Simons, Cheryl Jane Walker, Dr S K Matseke, Emma Mashinini, Joe Seremane, Harald Ernst Winkler, Dr Pieter Gili Ntsikelelo Mayende, the Rev Mamabolo Radifadi Raphesu, Buntu Boniface Mienyana and Werner Kirchhoff.

Sugar crop ³ still marginal

DURBAN — Good weekend rains fell in parts of sugar cane growing areas but follow up rains were needed to ensure an average 1995/96 crop, a senior industry official said yesterday.

SA Cane Growers' Association agricultural economics director Brian Sugden said rain in KwaZulu/Natal had brought some relief.

But the Zululand region had received little rain and crops there were starting to look "very poor", he said.

"This area comprises a third of the industry and if they get good rains it could have a big impact."

The Eastern Transvaal had received some weekend rains but irrigation restrictions were in place.

"We will need very good rains during the rest of January and February to get us anywhere near 1,8- or 1,9-million tons." However, it was too early for crop estimates which were expected only in April. **BD 11/195**

The crop estimate for the 1994/95 season was 1,665-million tons. About 346 000 tons would be exported.

KwaZulu/Natal weather forecaster Willie Pretorius said prospects for rain this week were good. — Reuter.

Land reform:

Who'll talk?

CT 18/1/95
PRETORIA. — Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom has forbidden officials in his department to discuss the land reform pilot programme with the press, a source has claimed. (2) (3)

The unnamed source said that, because of the sensitive nature of the programme, media statements would be made by Mr Hanekom "when he is ready".

But Mr Hanekom quickly moved to deny the claim, saying that "no such directive was ever issued".

According to a blueprint drafted last year, each province must nominate districts where a wide range of tenure reforms can be tested.

This would include private land acquisition, security of tenure for farmworkers and labour tenants, and leasehold land use. — Sapa



**Nod for land
commissioners**

3

ET 19/11/95
PRETORIA. — The cabinet yesterday endorsed Land Minister Mr Derek Hanekom's choice of commissioners to consider claims of people who lost their land under apartheid.

Mr Hanekom named Mr Joe Seremane, of the SA Communications Service, as chief land claims commissioner. — Reuter

C

Land commissioners named

PRETORIA — The Cabinet yesterday endorsed the appointment of commissioners to the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, said Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom (3 000). Sapa reports that the commission has been established to redress injustices caused by the dispossession of land rights due to apartheid laws. BD 19/1/95

The appointments were SA Communication Services assistant director Joe Seremane as chief land claims commissioner; Cape attorney Wallace Mgoqi as regional land claims commissioner for the Western and Northern Cape; Transkei University's Peter Mayende (Eastern Cape); Natal University's Cherryl Walker (KwaZulu/Natal and Free State); and Trans-

vaal Rural Action Committee trustee Emma Mashinini (Gauteng, Northwest, and Northern and Eastern Transvaal). Hanekom said it was now up to the commission to take the process further by drawing up guidelines, procedures and requirements for lodging land claims and other related measures. "The commission will have the full support of myself and my department," Hanekom said. "Provision has already been made for the appointment of staff of the Land Affairs Department to serve the commission in an administrative and professional capacity. The commission's regional offices were also being selected and would be made public once the issue was settled.

He said there had been 202 names received at the closing of nominations on December 31. Some candidates had been unable to serve on a full-time basis. If the workload required expansion of the commission later on, he would "approach some of the other members on the short list".

INGRID SALGADO reports that Mashinini said she hoped there would be co-operation and assistance from all parties involved. There were a number of people who had been "paralled around so much" they did not know when they had been removed and she hoped this would not prove to be a problem. The commission was likely to operate for three years, she said.

Pupils replace peer's Titian

Own Correspondent
LONDON — The Marquess of Bath has had his stolen £5m Titian replaced by a series of children's impressions of the masterpiece. The pictures depicting Rest On The Flight To Egypt were given to Lord Bath by pupils at Clough Head School near Huddersfield. The peer was devastated by the break-in at his home in Wiltshire this month. Teacher Shirley Scott was telling her children about the biblical story shortly before she heard of the theft. She decided to organise a competition to reproduce the Titian. She told reporters: "I just hope the paintings can lift Lord Bath's spirits a bit." Lord Bath sent a message to the school, thanking them for their "lovely gesture".

Army has no plans to recognise union

BD 19/1/95

THE SA Army had no immediate plans to grant the fledgling SA National Defence Union recognition as proper channels of communication already existed, an army spokesman said yesterday. Col Brian du Toit said: "As far as I know there are no negotiations with the union at this point although there have been negotiations with (SANDF chief) Gen Georg Meiring at army headquarters previously." Union organiser Maj Corvan Niekerk said last year he expected the army to recognise the union by the end of this month. New army chief Lt-Gen Reginald Otto said on Tuesday there was no necessity for a union within the army. "It is not necessary for anyone to decide for a soldier.

BONILE NGQIYAZA
Proper channels exist." Spokesman Maj Muff Anderson said yesterday the Defence Ministry had yet to finalise its position on unionisation. She said the SANDF was still operating in terms of the Defence Act clause according to which unionisation was "just out of the picture". Military analysts and observers warned that, after the elections, the struggle to unionise the military would become a major item on the national political agenda as it pitted the military establishment against the constitution. Van Niekerk said last year his union had received more than 3 500 membership applications.

NEWS

Guidelines for claims still to be drawn up

Land rights commission set up

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom yesterday announced a five-member Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights comprising people associated with organisations which fought forced removals.

The position of chief land claims commissioner will be filled by Joe Seremane, best known for his human rights work in the South African Council of Churches. The regional commissioners are: Western Cape — lawyer Wallace Mgoqi of the Legal Resources Centre;

Eastern Cape — Dr Peter Mayende, who formerly held the Pan Africanist Congress's land portfolio and now works for Idasa; KwaZulu/Natal and Free State — academic Cherryl Walker, a major contributor to the Surplus Peoples Project which helped raise awareness of forced removals in the early 1980s; and Gauteng, North West, Northern Transvaal and Eastern Transvaal — Emma Mashinini, former trade unionist and a leading figure in the Anglican Church's social justice programmes.

Congratulating the successful candidates, who were chosen from an initial 202 nominees,

Hanekom said it was now up to the commission to "draw up guidelines, procedures and requirements for the lodging of land claims" by those who were dispossessed of their land.

"I believe that I would shortly, after consultation with the commission, be in a position to advise the president on a date for the official launching of claims, as required by legislation," he said.

It is the commission's task to try to settle claims by mediation and facilitating talks between parties involved. Only if this course of action is followed does the claim go to the land

claims court, which has yet to be set up.

Brendan Pearce of the National Land Committee, which works closely with victims of forced removal, said his organisation was "happy with the people who have been tasked with this responsibility (of settling land claims) and is looking forward to having a constructive relationship with them".

Until regional land claims offices are set up, all queries should be addressed to Daan van der Westhuizen, Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, Provisus Building, Church Street, Pretoria.

3 Shaw 19/1/19

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Another boost for land reform

STAFF REPORTER

A further step towards land reform and rural development has been taken with the president's appointment of the Rural Financial Services Commission.

Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom announced yesterday that President Mandela had appointed the commission on January 13 with Dr Conrad Strauss, group chairman of Standard Bank Investment Corporation, as its chairman.

Hanekom said: "The Government needs to ensure that financial services in rural areas are accessible to the majority of the population, not only to finance land acquisition, but also to provide finance for the productive use of the land and rural development in general."

Interested parties have until the end of March to make submissions to the commission. The idea is that it will complete its work this year.

Other members of the commission are Dr Deon Brand (Department of Finance), Dr Helena Dolny (Wits Business School), advocate Steven Goldblatt (Johannesburg Bar), Fanle Hugo (Land Bank), Bonile Jack (National African Farmers Union), Deon Joubert (Department of Agriculture), Dr Mike Lamont (Reserve Bank), Totsie Memele (Perm Bank), Daphne Mótsepe (National Sorghum Breweries), Kgotoki Nhlapo (private consultant), Jack Reath (South African Agricultural Union), Dr Nick Vink (Development Bank), and Peter Wrighton (Premier Group).

The commission will be looking into government policy on providing financial services, the demand for financial services, existing institutions, and the legislation and structures required to expand services and ways to monitor the services.

Submissions should be sent to: The Secretary, Commission of Inquiry into the Provision of Rural Financial Services, Box 1234, Halfway House 1685. Fax number: (011) 313-3405

AGRICULTURE

Counting the cost of the drought

FM 20/01/95 (3)

The latest rains have come too late to cushion the effect of the drought on this year's projected 3% growth in GDP. Commentators are predicting that a failed agricultural season could cost the economy between 0,5%-2% of its forecast growth.

This is a bitter blow to a fragile economy which only a few months ago looked poised to achieve real growth this year.

Last year the economy was buoyed by a favourable agricultural season which saw a bumper 12,2 Mt maize crop — half of which was exported — earning valuable foreign exchange. The situation in 1993 was different — an adverse agricultural season tended to set back SA's growth.

Summer crops like maize, soya, wheat, sunflower and sorghum were hardest hit by the hot and dry September-December period. Late plantings were taking place in the western Transvaal this week after the rains, but still the outlook was not good.

Maize Board senior manager, intake management, Piet de Nysschen, says he's expecting a crop of about 6,5 Mt this year — just over half of last year's harvest — depending on the acreage planted this week and good follow-up rains.

Some say this is too optimistic and that a crop of 4,5 Mt would be more realistic. Fortunately, the board still has about 3 Mt left over from last season having stopped all exports of staple white maize. This, together with this season's below par maize crop, should just meet annual local consumption of 7,5 Mt.

Even with a best case scenario 6,5 Mt, the country would have to forgo potential export revenues of about R1,2bn achieved on last year's excellent crop. In addition, regional economies (and the national economy) would suffer from the decrease in farmers' earnings, their reduced buying power, dearth of cash to pay off debt and the prospect of thousands of farm workers being laid off.

Independent agricultural economist Johan Willemse expects the drought to slash 2% off this year's anticipated growth rate. But other economists are less pessimistic. They predict the drought could shave between 0,5%-1% off GDP.

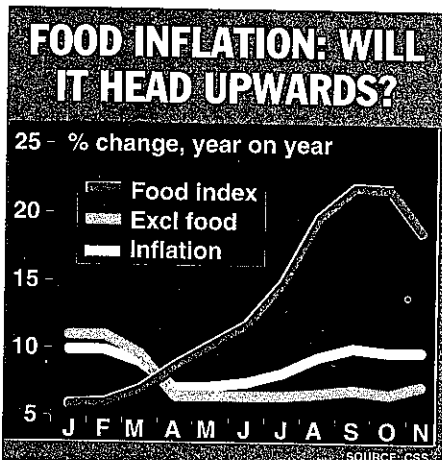
"Preliminary indications are that crops in the summer rainfall area can be expected to be 60% smaller than last year, with a loss in monetary value to farmers of around R3bn, resulting in a 30%-40% drop in net farm income for the year. Taking into account the multiplier effect on the economy, this translates into a loss in production value to the economy of up to R5bn. The loss in export earnings (especially maize), as measured against 1993-1994, could be

as much as R2bn, while agricultural imports to supply local market needs (mainly maize and oilseeds) could cost about R1bn this year."

Willemse is projecting a maize crop of around 4,5 Mt, the sorghum crop to fall from 432 000 t to 200 000 t, the groundnut crop from 128 000 t to 80 000 t, sunflowers from 390 000 t to 250 000 t and the summer rainfall wheat crop from 964 000 t to 600 000 t.

The balance of payments could be negatively effected by as much as R3bn. Willemse expects this to put upward pressures on interest rates and weaken the exchange rate.

Volkkas agricultural economist Chris Mostert is less gloomy. He predicts the



forecast 3% growth in GDP could drop to 2%. He says last season's maize surplus should soften the financial and economic blow from a low maize crop.

SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) economist Koos du Toit says the late rains have improved the outlook. "Up to a week ago, the SAAU predicted a 20% drop in gross farm income for the current year, to about R20bn. Now a 10% drop would be more in line, suggesting that the impact of the drought on this year's GDP growth should be downgraded from 1% to only about 0,5%. However, this would be dependent on good follow-up rains."

The severe drought in the northern and western Transvaal and parts of the eastern Cape and Natal does not augur well for the rapid rebuilding of livestock herds. So red meat prices could be negatively affected this year. Chicken prices, too, could soar if feeds becomes expensive as a result of the shortage of yellow maize.

But there are some brighter spots on the agricultural landscape. In the western Cape, for example, Unifruco chairman David

Gant predicts a 20% increase in revenue from deciduous fruit exports which last year earned R2bn in forex.

Other sectors with positive expectations include wool (R180m in additional export earnings); cotton (almost R120m up); citrus (expected to equal last year's R1,5bn gross export earnings); and sugar (up to 1,9 Mt from last year's 1,67 Mt output).

Total expected forex earnings from these sectors this year — subject to reasonable climatic conditions and positive market developments — is R700m-R800m.

Farmers blame their woes on the El Nino phenomenon now developing in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The Weather Bureau predicts below normal rainfall patterns for the rest of the summer growing season.

Deputy director of the Wits Climatology Research Group Simon Mason says apart from El Nino, other factors could have an impact on the region's climatic patterns. He says El Nino normally affects the tropical rainfall component of SA's summer rainfall zone, which usually only manifests itself from mid-December onwards.

"But this year the excessive drought and heat (temperature records were broken in several locations) started in the early, 'temperate' phase of the summer rainfall season. As this followed on the heels of last year's low winter temperatures, this might show a pattern of the erratic climatic variabilities which are expected to accompany the beginnings of a greenhouse effect on our regional climate.

"In addition, the warmer El Ninos are normally followed by cooler La Ninas in the Pacific but this has failed to materialise in recent years."

What this could portend is a devastating climatic change in the region which could have serious consequences for the regional economies in the longer term.

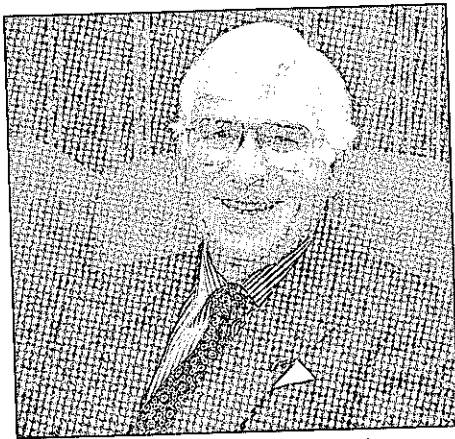
CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

Duty bound

Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg won't abolish surcharges and ad valorem duties on imported consumer electronics because of potential loss to the fiscus.

In a letter to representatives of the consumer electronics industry he says their appeal for relief comes at an inopportune time because of RDP demands.

This must come as a blow to legitimate importers of branded electronics goods who maintain the evasion of custom duties, surcharges, ad valorem and other taxes is rife (*Infotech* November 4). With an ef-



Liebenberg ... inopportune time to abolish surcharges

fective total tariff rate of 130% on audio equipment and 106% on video recorders, they say they cannot compete with importers who evade duties.

Customs & Excise says R183m a year will be lost to the fiscus if the total duty on imported electronics goods is dropped to 10%, as proposed by the industry.

Radio & TV Distributors' Association director Frans Jordaan says that if the duty were pegged at 10% the incentive to smuggle would be removed and more importers would be prepared to pay the lower duties, resulting in an even greater overall return to the State. "Government must take the risk," he argues.

Ironically, duties are destined to be reduced. In line with SA's signing of the Gatt, customs duties will be dropped (now under consideration by the Board on Tariffs & Trade) and surcharges, introduced in 1988 to assist the balance of payments, are expected to be scrapped. ■

UNLEADED FUEL

Paying the piper

FM 20/1/95

Can motorists and business afford the additional costs of unleaded fuel?

Oil companies have spent R270m preparing for its introduction; motor industry spokesmen says it is essential to keep SA abreast of global technology; catalytic converter manufacturers will benefit from an expanded market; government seems to favour the switch.

These factors will be on the mind of Mineral & Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha when he receives the report of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Introduction of Unleaded Fuel in a few weeks before submissions go to the Cabinet.

Neither Department of Mineral & Energy Affairs director of transport energy, Theunis Burger, nor spokesmen for the oil and motor industries are prepared to respond "at this stage" to allegations that the costs could put the introduction of unleaded fuel in jeopardy.

The field belongs mainly to critics. "Pollution levels do not justify unleaded fuel at this stage. Furthermore, cost implications are not acceptable to consumers who already spend a large proportion of their incomes on transport," says Consumer Council spokesman Paul Roos.

He feels motorists should have the right to choose between leaded and unleaded fuel — preferably at the same price. "Loss of engine power and increased fuel consumption caused by unleaded fuel may just sway public opinion," he says.

Director of UCT Energy Research Institute Richard Dutkiewicz says a study at

Cape Town's Foreshore traffic circle shows lead levels of "between 50% and 66% of the World Health Organisation's acceptable limits." He adds that the amount of lead now in the atmosphere caused by traffic is not a health hazard.

Dutkiewicz says unleaded fuel (with its lower octane levels) causes reduced engine efficiencies but the costs of producing the fuel go up "quite dramatically."

Should catalytic converters be introduced by law, installing new fuel injection technologies (and doing away with carburettors) and the so-called Lambda Sensor could be "very expensive. Scrapping the carburettor could cost an average of R2 500 per vehicle."

An AA spokesman says his organisation is concerned about pollution and supports the introduction of unleaded petrol. "Government should ensure that both leaded and unleaded petrol are available so that users of leaded petrol are not prejudiced by an additional financial burden."

The AA is more concerned about the manner in which unleaded petrol is introduced and possible tax implications for users of leaded petrol.

The spokesman says it is understood "that a 5% (9c/l) price differential has been recommended to government, which will mean that unleaded fuel will sell for 166c/l on the Reef at current prices. Given the fact that unleaded petrol is about 3c/l more expensive to produce, this means there is a gap of about 12c/l, for which someone will have to pay."

Overseas there is a tendency for governments to impose an additional tax on leaded petrol after unleaded fuel is introduced. "The motorist will be asked to cross-subsidise the use of unleaded fuel in SA. The AA wants to avoid consumers bearing this burden on their own."

The solution, the AA believes, might be for oil companies and government to share the burden. Oil companies claim they need a 20% unleaded share of petrol sales in the first year to make its introduction economically worthwhile. "Oil companies should accept a lower margin on sales, while government should forfeit a portion of its 60c/l fuel tax to soften the blow to motorists," the AA says.

It adds that a 1991 President's Council report on unleaded fuel found that, with increased fuel consumption, "the estimated cost of unleaded petrol would be 9% higher than that of leaded petrol because of the addition of expensive aromatics to achieve higher octane levels." Sasol Oil technical manager Jan Botha says the production costs of unleaded fuel would be "about 1,5c/l-3c/l more than for leaded fuel."

Petroleum Industry Association spokesman Colin McClelland says about 80% of global demand is for unleaded fuel, and with new engine technologies directed towards unleaded petrol, "the crude oil-based liquid fuels industry is responding to

Continued on Page 57

RADICAL HEALTH PLAN

FM 20/1/95

Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma plans to introduce a National Health Insurance Fund that will prevent private medical aids and insurance from funding all GP services.

The move would radically change the entire financing of private health care. Will overcrowding, underservicing and queuing be common as the State takes charge of all GP services?

Zuma will elaborate on the practicalities of her plan at the FM's third annual Corporate Health Care conference on February 7 at Gallagher Estate, Midrand.

Also addressing the conference will be Wits

medical researcher Alistair Dry who will detail the rising expectations members have of their medical schemes and, in particular, the administrators. Registrar for Medical Schemes Danie Kolver will

elaborate on the findings of the Melamet Commission of Inquiry that recommends greater financial accountability for both schemes and administrators. Steelmed's Ken Morgan will explain the success formula of the once-ailing Metal Industries Medical Aid Fund.

For details, contact Odette at Global Conferences: tel (021) 762-8600 or fax (021) 762-8606. FM readers qualify for the early bird price of R995, including Vat.



Zuma

Farmers warn on vegetable plunder

③ ARG 20/1/95

□ More take up arms to protect produce

LIBBY PEACOCK
Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN'S vegetable garden is being plundered, according to frustrated Philippi farmers, who are increasingly taking up arms to defend their properties, crops and livestock.

An incident this week when a Philippi farmer shot and injured a potato thief on his land has once again highlighted ongoing conflicts in the area.

Raymond Bock of Sandvlei Farm was staking out the property with a policeman after 500 bags of potatoes had been stolen from the farm the previous night.

About 10.45pm on Monday Mr Bock and the constable saw two men digging up potatoes and approached them.

Police spokesman Wicus Holtzhausen said in spite of oral warnings and warning shots fired into the air, the alleged thieves continued to run away.

Mr Bock then fired a shotgun, hitting one of the men in the right side, left arm and right thigh.

Captain Holtzhausen said yesterday there was "nothing sinister" about the incident and the farmer had been entitled to protect his property. Proper warnings were issued before

the alleged thieves were shot at.

Mr Bock is the son of Godfrey Bock, 69, who was convicted in the Supreme Court in 1993 of culpable homicide after he shot and killed two alleged potato thieves.

When The Argus tried to contact Mr Bock yesterday, a woman came to the telephone and said "no comment, please", before putting down the receiver.

Visiting the area, a reporter found a dairy farm deserted and learnt that the farmer "gave up" after losing livestock worth about R30 000 to thieves.

A source said the proximity of squatter settlements to some farms made it difficult for farmers to sell their properties.

Squatters were accused of making off with livestock on a regular basis.

Anton Hörstmann, chairman of the Cape Flats and District Farmers' Association, said vegetable farmers experienced sporadic thefts, especially during harvest from November to February.

He said there was a major difference between people who stole a few vegetables for the table and thieves who made off with hundreds of bags of potatoes, an expensive product.

Farmers usually did not mind people stealing a few carrots or a cabbage because they were hungry, but the problem stemmed from thieves who stole hundreds of bags full of vegetables to sell on markets.

Mr Hörstmann said the thefts were "very frustrating", but the farmers were not a "trigger-happy" bunch.

But The Argus learnt from a community source that a sign had been put up next to one of the Philippi roads, saying: "*Trespassers will be shot. Survivors will be shot again.*"

Captain Hennie Nel of Philippi police station said this month so far four thefts of vegetables, two of livestock (several sheep and a pig), one house-breaking, one theft from a car and one theft of a car had been reported.

This was more than for the whole of January last year.

About two years ago a police farm patrol satellite station was established to combat thefts, but there were still not enough police to cope with the extent of the problem.

Although stricter police surveillance might help, the only long-term solution would be the upliftment and education of the very poor communities living alongside the farmers.

Urgent need to finish Palmiet water scheme

PIETER MALAN (3) ARL 20/1/95
Staff Reporter

PHASE one of the Palmiet River water scheme has to be completed before 1998 to meet the short-term water demands of the Peninsula, says water affairs engineer Willie Enright.

This phase relates to the building of a pipeline or canal between Rockview dam and the Upper Steenbras dam, and is not concerned with controversial plans to dam the Palmiet River.

Mr Enright was one of several speakers spelling out the details of the proposed water scheme in the Palmiet River to about 50 people in Grabouw last night.

The meeting was one of two community forums to be held before a general meeting between all concerned groups and water affairs minister Kader Asmal at the end of the month. The other meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at Kleinmond.

At yesterday's meeting Mr Enright said the completion of phase one should not be confused with the controversial plans for a dam in the lower Palmiet River — a plan generally referred to as "phase two" of the scheme.

The completion of phase one entails the building of a canal or pipeline from the already completed Rockview dam to the upper Steenbras dam and the building of a pipeline from Steenbras to the water treatment plant at Faure.

A tunnel taking water from the Kogelberg dam on the Palmiet River to the Rockview dam is already completed and forms part of Eskom's hydro-electricity scheme which has provided power since 1988.

The building of the canal or pipeline will cost about R108 million.

The department of water affairs hopes to pump 31 million cubic metres of water a year from the Palmiet River to the Steenbras scheme in this way.

Environmentalists' opposition is based on the fact that insufficient research has been done on the minimum amount of water that is needed to maintain a healthy Palmiet River system.

Cape Nature conservation researcher Chris Burgers said there was still uncertainty as to the effect the extraction of such an amount of water would have on the ecological integrity of the Kogelberg core conservation area.

Border dispute is a rehash of the past

ARG 21/12/95 (3)

ARG 21/1/95

IN the north of KwaZulu/Natal, there is a wrangle that has been running 20 years and more.

The dramatis personae are exactly the same — King Zwelithini, Chief Buthelezi and Prince Israel Zulu. It is only the central government hissing from the wings that has altered in character as the king and Prince Israel arm-wrestle Chief Buthelezi for influence.

Down in the south, in East Griqualand (EG), the border dispute has broken out again. That has been running since 1872 when Nomansland — as it was then known — was annexed to the Cape almost by accident, just as Natal was about to annex it.

For many years EG was a strange little sliver of mainly white (some Griqua) farms, cut off from the rest of the Cape by the territory of Transkei. Socially and economically it was part of Natal. The central government departments serving it were regionally located in Maritzburg. The provincial departments serving it were in Cape Town — and, many said, might as well have been on the moon.

Natal administrator Theo Gerdener tried to have EG incorporated into his province, but was firmly slapped down as a latter-day imperialist. But when the Transkei was granted "independence", some kind of decision had to be made.

Kaizer Matanzima demanded EG for the Transkei. The Nats gave it to Natal. Matanzima then broke diplomatic relations with Pretoria, an early shuddering the programme of grand apartheid.

When boundaries were drawn for the new political dispensation, EG remained in KwaZulu/Natal, with some grumbling from the Eastern Cape. The grumbling has since progressed to growling and snapping. Eastern Cape premier Raymond Mhlaba (motivated by exactly the same considerations as Matanzima) tried simple *anschluss* — announcing that his government would establish an office in Kokstad — but backed down to allow mediation. Since then there has been the squatter invasion of Matatiele, which few believe is unconnected to the border dispute.

Yes, we feel we've seen it all before.

What kind of place is this bone of contention? Scenically superb, it is hard, rugged country, often snowbound in winter. Its farmers will tell you it costs so much more per acre to farm than KwaZulu/Natal, for a yield of so much less. Wool is its main product, polo its main preoccupation. The wool cheque pays for the polo.

■ It's **deja vu** in double doses. In KwaZulu-Natal there is a strange sense of the past being re-enacted on two fronts.



GRAHAM LINSCOTT

EG — Nomansland — was settled by the Griquas in 1861, a Dutch-speaking people of mixed race who trekked from Griqualand West under their captain, Adam Kok. They had wagons and gunpowder.

In return for British protection in EG, they had to practise democracy, which they duly did. A parliament was built but it did not pass a single law because sessions lasted the time it took to roast an ox. Proceedings would be adjourned by the cook walking into the debating chamber with the words: "Boys, die kos is gaar."

Democracy also required a government gazette to publish the laws and proclamations of the government in Cape Town, which is why the local newspaper is still called the Kokstad Advertiser and East Griqualand Gazette.

It is believed to have been started by a colourful character named Yankee Wood, a black American sailor — also trained as a printer — who met up with Adam Kok after jumping ship in Port Elizabeth. (Kok was on his way back from negotiating annexation with the governor of the Cape.)

Wood built the Royal Hotel (which still stands in Kokstad), then moved to the Witwatersrand where he ran another hotel which served the likes of Rhodes and Barnato. He also became a racehorse owner. He travelled to Kimberley, lost his money and then — according to legend — returned to Kokstad to become the doorman at the hotel he'd owned.

Yes, EG has a colourful background. Its original Griqua inhabitants have all but disappeared with the influx of whites and Africans, but a frontier spirit still prevails. The territory is wedged between the Eastern Cape and Lesotho, and for generations there has been stock rustling through the mountain passes, East Griqualanders often taking posses into Lesotho to retrieve their sheep and cattle at gunpoint.

The Wild West rules OK. It would be a marvellous place to make movies — but we trust not of a border war.

Precious liquid now on tap in far north

Morapalala gives ⁽³⁾ thanks for water

BY WINNIE GRAHAM

The scene in the small village of Morapalala, in the Northern Transvaal, last week was almost biblical, despite the changed life-style of the community.

Three women were collecting water, not at a well or with pitchers as was the custom thousands of years ago, but in plastic buckets from a tap. And yet the biblical atmosphere remained.

The story of drought-stricken Morapalala and its water saga goes back several years when its stream was on the verge of running dry.

Women had to leave their homes at sunrise, heading across the hills to fetch water at one of three wells. It was often an all-day excursion, for the water levels were low.

Often people fought over the precious fluid. Water and survival went hand in hand.

In 1992 the village committee approached the Development Bank of South Africa for help. The bank provided a strong borehole, a reservoir and a few standpipes at one end of the village. However, some villagers still had long distances to cover to fetch water.

In October 1993 the develop-

VILLAGERS no longer have to walk miles to fetch water, thanks to a successful community-based reticulation project

ment committee approached the largely European Union-funded Mvula Trust to finance reticulation. A project, geared to provide each person in the village with 25 litres a day, was approved at a cost of R307 500. However, the community was expected to contribute both funds and labour. To date it has raised R10 000.

The Morapalala water committee hired 45 people (half of whom were women and people from the neediest families) at a locally decided basic wage of R10 a day. While it employed support services for the design, supervision and development of the project, the villagers dug the trenches and laid the pipes.

Much of the training of the community was done on site and covered such aspects as book-keeping and financial control, committee organisation and decision-making, project manage-

ment, maintenance and repairs. The going was tough but the need for water provided the motivation. Not only did the workers complete the job (and are now managing it themselves) but they initiated two projects of their own: a 1-hectare food garden and two cattle troughs.

On Friday Water Affairs Minister Professor Kader Asmal, accompanied by European Union ambassador Erwan Fouere; Northern Transvaal Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi and an array of dignitaries, including Rejole Mabudafasi MP, vice-chairman of the Mvula Trust, visited the project.

Virtually everyone in the village was there to hear the Minister describe South Africa as a land of extremes.

"On the one hand it is possible to transfer water up a hill to Johannesburg and on the other there are 12 million who haven't access to water — the most basic of all rights," Asmal said.

There was no fatted calf to kill in Morapalala, and no one wanted the water changed into wine. Rather, the people celebrated by dancing to the beat of the drums. And drinking water when the heat became too much.



ABOVE: To the beat of the drums, women celebrate the successful completion of the water reticulation project by dancing.



RIGHT: Women in the village of Morapalala fill their buckets at one of 48 new taps. They no longer have to spend long hours collecting the precious liquid.

PICTURES: WINNIE GRAHAM

ARG 24/1/95

Move on land administration

CLIVE SAWYER (3) (2/2)

Political Correspondent

THE first moves to sort out the tangle of South Africa's land administration laws are under way.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom has appointed a team headed by Potchefstroom professor Nic Olivier to recommend land administration practices to suit the constitution and new land policies.

Speaking in the national assembly yesterday on the Land Administration Bill, Mr Hanekom said the bill would delegate powers over land administration to provincial and local governments.

Some land matters could be performed effectively only on a local or provincial level, he said.

Hanekom warns claimants

CAPE TOWN — Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom warned yesterday that opportunists were attempting to levy exorbitant fees from people submitting claims under the Restitution of Land Rights Act.

The Act, which provides for the restitution of land rights to those who were dispossessed due to discriminatory legislation, was enacted by Parliament last year.

Hanekom said yesterday private advertisements had been placed recently in newspapers offering to submit claims on behalf of claimants "at exorbitant rates".

Hanekom said the restitution process had been structured in such a way that claims from both individuals and communities could be submitted directly and free of charge to the Restitution of Land Rights Commission. (3) (24)

Members of the commission were appointed earlier this month and were currently drawing up guidelines, procedures and requirements for the lodging of land claims, he said.

"The commission will be accessible to everyone and will be able to assist claimants in documenting their claims."

A campaign would be launched soon to

ADRIAN HADLAND

inform people how and where to submit their claims, Hanekom said.

The official launching of the claims period, which will last for three years, would be announced shortly following consultation with the commission and once the president had been advised, he added.

Hanekom, meanwhile, told Parliament yesterday that a task team had been appointed to undertake a comprehensive investigation of all existing land administration laws. BD 24/1195

Speaking in the second reading debate on the Land Administration Bill, Hanekom said the team would be headed by Potchefstroom University professor Nic Olivier.

Various problems had emerged concerning land administration functions performed by the former TBVC and self-governing territories, Hanekom said.

The occupation of state-owned land in these areas, the granting of permits and lease contracts, the subdivision of land and general township administration functions were among difficulties that would be addressed by the task team.

Land laws

probe ordered

CT 24/11/95
A COMPREHENSIVE investigation into all existing laws pertaining to land administration had been initiated under Professor Nic Olivier of Potchefstroom University, the Minister of Land Affairs, Mr Derek Hanekom, said yesterday.

Various problems had come to the fore regarding land administration functions of the former TBVC and self-governing territories, he said.

"The difficult task is to unravel or unbundle the existing laws, the roles and functions of different authorities, and to strike a right balance between coherent national land reform measures and effective day-to-day administration of land matters on the ground," Mr Hanekom said.

Restitution rip-off alert

A WARNING against advertisements offering to submit land restitution claims "at exorbitant rates" was issued yesterday by the Minister of Land Affairs, Mr Derek Hanekom.

The new Commission on Restitution of Land Rights had been structured in such a way that people could submit their claims directly and free of charge, he said in a statement.

The commission would, as a matter of urgency, draw up guidelines for the lodging of land claims and other related matters.

A date for the official launching of claims would be announced after consultation with the commission, Mr Hanekom said.

RDP office approached for land cash

LOUISE COOK

THE Land Affairs department had approached the reconstruction and development programme office for a "substantial" amount of money to be able to meet restitution costs in 1995, Land Affairs chief director Eric Buiten said yesterday.

Buiten declined to give the amount but sources said it was more than R100m. The money has been budgeted by the department so it can meet restitution costs ordered by the upcoming Land Claims Court. Buiten said the amount was not part of the R64,5m still left over from last year for development support. The R64,5m would be spent during 1995.

"This money provides communities who succeed in claiming back land with basic infrastructure. It is estimated to be spent over three years and should cover development costs for the first 10 restitution cases," Buiten said.

"Communities benefiting are in Natal at Roosboom, Charlstown, Alcockapruit, Swelindinga, Zulukama and Thormhill. In the eastern Cape, communities at Riemvasmaak and Group 4 and in the northern Cape, Goedgevonden, Bakubing and Swartrand are being resettled out of this money. It is also being used to move the Doornkop community to Middelburg."

Buiten said the R64,5m should provide running water and tents as well as removal costs for between 30 000 and 40 000 people.

"Trying to estimate the cost of land restitution is a guessing game. The state is obliged to meet all costs ordered by the upcoming court." He said the most expensive case so far had cost the state R35m.

Chief land claims commissioner Joe Seremane said land restitution would be approached in a spirit of reconciliation with consideration given to dispossessed farmers currently occupying the land.

He said no one would be "sent to the gallows" in the upcoming restitution process. Seremane and four other regional land claims commissioners were appointed last week to the Land Claims Commission, a body formed to mediate in land restitution claims.

Seremane said the main problems facing the commission included determining which cases were the most urgent, dealing fairly with farmers who had settled on land taken from communities and to find sufficient land for all.

BD 25/11/95

Land claim agents prey on victims of apartheid

ARG 24/1/95

③ ~~5/11~~

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

PEOPLE who lost land because of apartheid are being preyed on by private agencies charging exorbitant rates to submit claims on their behalf.

Warning against these agencies, land affairs minister Derek Hanekom said legislation allowed people to submit their claims directly and free of charge.

The commission on restitution of land rights, appointed last week is to draw up guidelines for lodging land claims.

"After consultation with the commission, I shall advise the president on date for the official launching of claims," Mr Hanekom said.

Regional offices of the commission were being set up.

There would be an information campaign to inform people how and where to submit their claims.

Individuals and communities could submit claims.

Prospective claimants needing guidance should contact the commission on land rights at ☎ (012) 341-7900, Mr Hanekom said.

They could also contact the national land committee or legal resources centre.

Harare poised to send troops to Angola

HARARE — Zimbabwe was poised to send a battalion of 1 000 soldiers to Angola to act as peacekeepers, the Ziana news agency said yesterday. (3) BD 24/1/95

Defence Minister Moven Mahachi said defence force commander-in-chief President Robert Mugabe had agreed to a request by the UN for troops.

"Our soldiers are ready to move as soon as we get the directive from the UN," Mahachi said soon after the official opening of a British and Zimbabwean peace-keeping workshop.

The UN had also asked Zambia, SA and

Botswana to contribute forces.

Mahachi said the decision to send troops depended on the participation of the other three countries. "We are only sending troops on condition that Botswana, SA and Zambia participate."

Mahachi called on SA to provide manpower, equipment and logistics for the Angolan mission.

"SA is the best equipped, compared with other African countries. SA was involved in the initial negotiations and it would send the wrong signals if it did not participate," Mahachi said. — Sapa.

R20m is earmarked for drought relief.

③ Sowetan 26/11/95

Sowetan & Radio Metro

Talkback



Tim Modise

By Mongadi Mafata

MORE than R20 million was allocated yesterday as a stop-gap measure by the Cabinet for drought relief.

Water and Forestry Minister Professor Kader Asmal, who was a studio guest on the Radio Metro Talkback Show last night explained his ministry's plans to overcome water scarcity in the land.

Asmal said he envisaged a situation where all the households in South Africa would have access to between 20 and 30 litres of water a day.

"This is why Cabinet approved the R20 million relief fund to assist consumers in Northern KwaZulu-Natal, the Northern and Eastern Transvaal," he said.

He told show host Tim Modise that the white paper on water and forestry affairs would give priority to peoples' basic needs.

"Deprivation in our country is very sensitive. Women in the rural areas get up at 3am and walk between four and five kilometers a day for water".

Asmal said all the major parts of the old RSA had the best water infrastructure compared to the former TBVC states which were normally dry and in the poorest regions.

He said some chiefs in the former bantustan homelands used to sell water to the people as a way of exerting political control.

"No pumped-up politician in a fancy car should be selling what is basically a community asset."

He said that part of the relief fund will

go towards drilling bore-holes in the drought ravaged areas and hiring water tanks to bring water closer to the people.

On the long-term plans of his department, the minister said that they had recently joined the southern African Development Community to look into the water crisis facing the region.

"This will enable us to look into how the Limpopo river could be used for both south Zimbabwe and northern

Transvaal consumers."

The minister appealed to the community to form committees in conjunction with the provincial Water Affairs liaison committees that were established by the department.

"We want to make the provision of water a community-based effort."

"Water is more important than gold. It's the life-blood of the nation," he said.

Southern Africa to face Western donors

297 (3)

BD 26/11/95

HARARE — Southern African nations, facing cash shortages for development programmes, meet Western donors tomorrow to drum up support for fledgling efforts at economic integration.

Officials of the 11-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) said the group would seek to raise about \$3,6bn during the week-long consultative conference with donors in the Malawi capital, Lilongwe.

The money is to cover development programmes in several key sectors including energy, transportation, agriculture, communications and tourism. But the SADC recognises its members must lessen dependence on donor aid, which accounts for more than half of the region's development funding.

The conference theme document says the meeting will focus on how to create conditions to marshal the region's own resources to support integration.

The SADC said it had secured \$4,3bn of the \$8,5bn needed for the plan. The officials said negotiations with donors for more than \$580m were "at an advanced stage".

"We will be discussing with our co-operating partners if they can meet that funding gap (of \$3,6bn) which does not include the figure under negotiation," SADC chief economist Ted Kalebe said.

"We will review the programme of action for this year, what resources are going into these programmes and financial problems being encountered," he added.

The SADC is comprised of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and SA,

which joined last August.

Kalebe said the organisation this year would cut back on the 446 projects in the development programme due to lack of funding.

Economic analysts have often pointed at the region's heavy reliance on donor funds as one of the main constraints on effective regional integration and economic growth.

"The European Union would encourage the search for SADC's own resources because I think one of the criticisms of the regional development process within SADC has been heavy dependence on donor funds," said EU delegation leader Michael Laidler.

Karl Larsson, an economist in the aid department of the Swedish embassy in Zimbabwe, said the SADC urgently needed to generate more of its own resources for its plans, in the face of dwindling aid from Western states faced with increasing budgetary constraints.

He noted that Sweden, facing its own financial problems, had cut its financial aid to SADC to \$8,75m for 1995/96 from \$20,63m in 1994/95.

Britain said its expenditure for the SADC, expected to be about \$5,7m, would also be "somewhat lower" than in previous years because it, too, was moving away from large capital projects to technical co-operation.

A Zimbabwean government official handling SADC issues said the group for the first time had invited representatives from the region's private sector to discuss how they could help to promote investment and growth that would boost the regional resource base.

Kalebe said SADC would ask its Western "co-operating partners" to help resource mobilisation by investing in the region. — Reuter.

IMPORTANT areas of agricultural marketing were still strictly controlled, despite a two-year campaign to bring about deregulation and an open market in produce, experts said this week.

The sale of maize and wheat, two of the country's most sizeable crops, was still tightly controlled in terms of the Agricultural Marketing Act; and the export of deciduous and citrus fruits remained a single channel operation.

But pressure continues for a relaxation of curbs, particularly in the maize market, and the entire agricultural industry remains in a state of flux. Developments in maize are being closely monitored as a key indicator of the likely direction produce marketing will take.

The release in early 1993 of the Kassier report on agricultural marketing led to expectations that deregulation would be swift — and the ubiquitous control boards, which had dominated farming in SA since the 1930s, would be replaced by an open market.

At about the same time, the Board on Tariffs and Trade pinpointed single channel marketing as a bugbear in the fight against inflation and the Banana Board and the Meat Board were the first to succumb to pressure from consumers and producers.

Two years later, the scenario is much changed. However, there are still a surprising number of marketing restrictions in the industry along with widespread confusion and bewilderment among producers. The imminent futures market in commodities compounds the uncertainties.

In the wake of the Kassier report, some farming sectors opted for a freer market, while others elected to remain within the comfortable confines of a single-channel system. The current Act can be altered to allow sectors to operate more freely if they so wish. Boards and producers are able to deregulate if they so agree, while direct transactions between farmers and buyers — without the intervention of a board — are now possible. Scope exists for farmers in most sectors to launch their own producer organisations in opposition to the control boards.

Other Kassier recommendations that have been implemented include the replacement of the National Marketing Board with a more representative National Marketing Council.

The merits and demerits of the two approaches are still being debated and there is certainly no agreement on whether open markets have brought down prices, or even kept them in check.

Arguments in favour of retaining tight board control of distribution include "food security", price stability and a lack of marketing expertise among farmers.

However, a new agricultural marketing Bill, likely to be tabled in Parliament during its current session, may change the complexion of the issue by prohibiting cartels and enforcing deregulation.

Stellenbosch University's agricultural economics head Prof Eckard Kassier said this week that most boards had transformed them-

Pressure mounts to liberalise agriculture

BD 26 11 95 (3)

LOUISE COOK

selves into producer organisations and dropped controls to a "lesser or greater degree".

The one notable exception to this trend was in deciduous and citrus fruit exports.

"Anyone should have the right to do business anywhere. Individual deciduous fruit and citrus farmers must have the right to do their own thing overseas if they want to," he said.

Control in terms of the Agricultural Marketing Act still applied and fruit farmers have to export their products was through Capespan, the Unifruco and Outspan export arm.

The Agriculture Department's marketing deputy director Rodney Dredge pointed to wheat and maize as two crops still under tight control in terms of the Act.

He said that in both cases changing marketing arrangements, due to be finalised this year, would probably relax trade.

Subtropical fruit, bananas, chicory, dry beans, eggs, vegetables, potatoes and rootbros tea no longer fell under the Marketing Act. Producers of these crops had opted for a totally free market system, said Dredge.

Control of the marketing of other crops had been dropped to a greater or lesser degree.

"Market intervention in the case of wool and milk is limited to promotions and research. The boards no longer fix prices or buy all produce."

He said so-called "minimum floor prices" had been retained for red meat, grain sorghum and peanuts. This meant that levies were still charged "to ensure that producers received a minimum price in the event of prices dropping below certain levels".

"In the case of red meat, the market price has been so high that the floor price has not been activated for some time now."

The Wool Board no longer bought or sold wool — its functions had been reduced to promotions and information to industry, he said.

The Agriculture Department's marketing spokesman Andre van der Vyfer confirmed that a trend towards freeing markets had taken hold. This was something producers had long been campaigning for, he said.

"Although some boards, such as the Milk Board, still exist, while others, such as the Banana Board, have disappeared, most producers now participate in marketing schemes on a voluntary basis."

The significant exceptions were in the fields of maize and wheat. Dredge said levies still applied to wheat farmers and were used by the Wheat Board to receive, store, handle and ad-

minister the marketing scheme.

But there had been some change. Last year the Chamber of Millers was invited by the board to participate in a joint wheat importing exercise. Previously, the board had been the only body legally empowered to import.

"It was then decided that the board would use all import profit to subsidise sales of domestic wheat by R31,83 a ton," said Dredge.

Wheat farmers have no say in what they are paid for their crop, with the annual price (R733,26 a ton this year) being determined by the Wheat Board.

Wheat Board MD Louis van Staden said this week he expected a freer system to be instituted by November.

The maize industry, although still under board control, has, by contrast, slowly freed up its sales procedures and is looking to have a completely new system in place in May when the new selling season starts. The size of the industry has made it a benchmark for SA farming and it may be followed by other sectors.

The area where there is most discord and confusion is the mohair business. The future of mohair marketing is in the balance as a result of some producers objecting to proposed changes to the current scheme. The farmers are also opposed to the formation of a trust with the assets of the Mohair Board, which has tried to disband itself and form a commercial marketing body. The Supreme Court has upheld the farmers' objections and forced the board to remain intact.

The other area where sweeping change is occurring in agricultural marketing is in imports and exports.

Import permits for produce are on their way out in terms of GATT requirements. SA has to provide greater market access to the outside world and scale down import barriers by 38% over the next five years.

Board on Tariffs and Trade sources said the proposed wheat import tariff would be published in the Government Gazette shortly. An import tariff for maize is under investigation after an initial proposal by the National Maize Producers' Organisation was rejected by the board. The tariff structures for red meat and poultry are likely to change as a result of a board investigation.

Other current tariff investigations relate to wine, animal fodder, various fruits and frozen vegetables.

Lobbying is accompanying all these deliberations — as it is with regard to domestic markets — and is likely to increase in intensity in coming months. Kassier said such lobbying was likely to play a key role in all future government decisions on marketing.

Lawrence over

He has seen the law aid the poor

4/10/95
3

BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS

VUYO BAVUMA, Political Staff

Now that the Land Commissioners have been elected, the struggle for the return of land seized during the apartheid era is set to be settled in court. WALLACE MGOQI, Land Commissioner for the Western Cape and Northern Cape, talks about his new job.

WHEN Wallace Mgoqi takes up his first land rights restitution case, it will not be the first time he takes up the cause of the landless people.

For more than 15 years, the Langa social worker-turned-lawyer has been involved in "advancing the cause of the homeless and protecting the sanctity of family life".

Interviewed at his office at the Legal Resource Centre, Mr Mgoqi said he believed that in his new position — which he assumes on March 1 — he would merely continue the task he had begun during the tumultuous days of the pass laws.

At that time, Mr Mgoqi, who had just graduated from Unisa as a social worker, worked at Kraaifontein and Modderdam where he helped squatters in their endless battles to save their makeshift shelters from being demolished.

As a field worker of the then Community Flats Committee for Interim Accommodation, which was later taken over by the Western Province Council of Churches, Mr Mgoqi helped to mobilise the squatters into fighting for their rights.

Mr Mgoqi never lost faith even though the battles to improve the squatters' plight proved difficult in the face of heavy-handed state actions.

To improve his effectiveness, he took to law studies.

"This was after a court ordered Stellenbosch authorities to rebuild a shack they had illegally demolished.

"As I watched those bullies re-erecting the shack, I believed that the law had a potential of coming to the assistance for the poor."

After graduating from UCT in 1984, Mr Mgoqi served articles with a Cape Town firm and in the following year joined the Legal Resource Centre.

His focus on community development was immortalised when the Uitkyk squatter community near Kraaifontein changed the name of their camp to Wallacedene after about 60 families had been



Wallace Mgoqi

spared demolition, thanks to his intervention.

Today, the 46-year-old lawyer is set to further his battle

to — in his own words — "advance the cause of the homeless and protecting the sanctity of family life" within the framework of a democratic government.

Mr Mgoqi believes change will be hollow without the resolution of the land question, and that the restoration of land to the dispossessed is critical to the national healing process.

Responding to the criticism from Inkatha and Pan Africanist Congress that the new law dealt only with cases involving land taken away after 1913, Mr Mgoqi said though it might be a minus factor, it would go a long way to appease aggrieved people.

It would also restore some balance in a completely hopeless situation and create a foundation for the future generation to represent the new democratic ethos.

He said: "We should counter-balance this with the need to meet land hunger and introduce a notion of justice fairness..."

"There can't be a section of people with disproportionate rights to the land while another section has no virtually no rights.

"It's obviously in the public interest that scales have to be balanced."

Property seizure 'OK if in public interest'

CT 27/11/95 (3)

THE seizure of property is possible in a future Bill of Rights if the seizure is done in the public interest, according to the ANC's preliminary submission to a constitutional Theme Committee yesterday.

The ANC proposal also says the seizure should meet the objectives of the constitution and be accompanied by just compensation.

Compensation would be determined through a balance between the public and affected parties' interests and not be based solely on market value of the property.

The ANC proposes the granting of social and

economic rights through the provision of homes, education, employment and access to facilities without discrimination.

All parties agreed that the present interim Bill of Rights had limitations.

In addition to a Bill of Rights, the IFP proposes a bill of duties and obligations, which would lay down the duties and obligation of the individual for the common good and national interest.

Duties and obligations would cover: Allegiance to the constitution, contribution to public expenditure and needs, military obligations, duty to work and family duties.

— Sapa

Employers of illegal workers face action

GOVERNMENT would take strict action against employers using illegal immigrant labour, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

But the problem of illegal foreigners was not just a local issue and steps to enter into discussions with neighbouring countries had also been taken, he said.

His department intended to do "everything in its power to curb the influx".

However, there was a distinction between foreigners who "contribute to unemployment and the high crime rate" and refugees or immigrants who possessed residence or work permits. The latter were in SA legally and fully entitled to the rights

INGRID SALGADO

stipulated in their permits. Repatriation of illegal immigrants would continue but would be executed in a "civil, humane" manner.

Buthelezi expressed concern at steps taken by Alexandra residents this week to oust foreigners from their township.

The residents claimed they were operating in the name of the ANC and SA National Civic Organisation but both organisations denied this and condemned the action. The Inkatha Freedom Party Youth Brigade this week expressed its support for the evictions.

Bill may allow land seizure

CAPE TOWN — The seizure of property was possible in a future Bill of Rights if the seizure was done in the public interest, met the objectives of the constitution and was accompanied by a just compensation, the ANC said in its preliminary submission to theme committee four yesterday.

A just compensation would be determined through a balance between the public and affected parties' interests and not be based solely on the market value of the property.

"The constitution will make it clear that seeking to achieve substantive equal rights and opportunities for those discriminat-

ed against in the past should not be regarded as a violation of the principles of equality, non-racialism and non-sexism.

"Unless special interventions are made, the patterns of structured advantages and disadvantages created by apartheid and patriarchy (will) replicate themselves from generation to generation," the submission read.

The ANC mooted the creation of a new system of just and secure property rights. It also suggested the creation of special agencies to ensure equal opportunities between women and men.

"The Bill of Rights must guarantee language, cul-

tural rights and religion and respect diversity."

Workers would be granted rights to independent trade unions, collective bargaining and the right to strike which should be supplemented by a workers' charter.

The ANC proposes the granting of social and economic rights through the provision of homes, education, employment and access to facilities without discrimination on the basis on race and gender.

All parties agreed that the interim Bill of Rights had limitations as it was written to deal with the transition and was thus not expansive enough. — Sapa.

Oceana expects improvement

CAPE TOWN — Fishing and cold storage group Oceana expected a reasonable increase in earnings in its financial year to end-September 1995, chairman Robbie Williams said in the annual report. (3) ED 30/1/95

Prospects for the fishing division depended on no further reduction in the group's pelagic quota. The lobster quota was reduced, but should be offset by firmer export prices, he said.

The fishing division continued to benefit from efficiency and cost control measures and these factors, with market and product diversification, should ensure satisfactory results.

Continued economic improvement coupled with progress in developing new international markets and supply sources should assist trading to improve on 1994's performance.

In the past year Oceana's earnings a share before extraordinary items climbed to 290,5c over 251,2c the previous year. The total dividend payout amounted to 171c (156c).

Williams said rising import volumes of meat and poultry, encouraged by lower import tariffs and in-

EDWARD WEST

creased local production of protein and perishable products, were expected to continue to contribute to increased levels of throughput in the cold storage division.

The fishing division had had to contend with static or reduced anchovy and lobster quotas for some time.

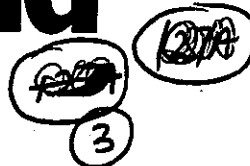
Williams said a catch of this level could not sustain profitable fishmeal and oil production in SA without there being some industry fleet and plant rationalisation, a factor which would need to be recognised in any revised national fisheries policy.

Oceana recently restructured its shareholding to be more representative of the broad SA community. In terms of the restructuring, Tiger Oats would share control of Oceana with a new broadly-based shareholder grouping, which would be partly made up of soon-to-be-listed Real Africa Investments.

Chairman designate Donald Ncube said in the annual report the group's growth potential was exciting.

ands in 'poorest province'

Millions for water and housing



■ **GOOD TIDINGS** Water a top priority in the Northern Transvaal:

By Khathu Mamaila

THE northern Transvaal government has set aside R205 million for the provision of water and a further R150 million for the building of houses, premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi said yesterday.

Addressing a Press conference in Pietersburg, Ramatlhodi said water was "a priority of all priorities" in the province.

He said among the major water projects to be implemented in the next few years were the Pietersburg, Ebenhezer and Seshego projects, which would cost R160 million.

Ramatlhodi also announced that the government had set aside R5,6 million for the bulk supply of water from Kutama.

He said 7 088 housing units would be erected in Seshego, Mankweng, Phahameng, Belabela and Mahwelereng from April this year.

The move to build houses and im-

prove water supplies in the region would come as a great relief to thousands of residents, most of whom stay in villages and rely on rain for water.

"We are the poorest province and we need to save every cent available," said Ramatlhodi, adding that government officials who were unduly promoted, resulting in overpayment in their salaries, would have to reimburse the money they owed.

"The government will not deviate from this principle. The province will recover all overpayments in those cases where people have been wrongfully promoted or were granted incorrect or unlawful increases," said Ramatlhodi.

While each case would receive attention, the first deductions would be effected in March this year.

In an attempt to cut down on government expenditure, Ramatlhodi said they had suspended the filling of vacant posts.

"... and officials' trips have been limited to the most essential and have to be approved from high level in all cases. Official entertainment has been stopped in almost all cases," he said.

Land Bank set for R19m loss

③

CF 2/2/95
By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE Land Bank was likely to make a loss of R19 million on properties it had purchased for at the end of the 1993 financial year, the auditor-general Mr Henri Kluever, said yesterday.

But he added that adequate provision for these losses had been made.

Mr Kluever said in his report into the bank's accounts for the 1993/4 financial year, tabled in Parliament yesterday, that the value of its property in the Land Property Account amounted to R111,4m, but the realisable selling price had been set at R92,4m.

The capital employed by the bank at the end of the 1993 financial year was R4 103,4m - R282m less than the previous year.

Its total current assets were R5 393,9m, and its current liabilities were R5 495,5m, giving it net current liabilities of R101,6m.

However, its surplus transferred to reserve during the year was R165,9m. Its reserves totalled R1 135,1m - an increase of R166m over the previous year. The bank had lent R3 830,8m to farmers at the end of the 1993 year, Mr Kluever said.

NEWS FEATURE *Looking beyond Lesotho for water supply as Gauteng demand increases*

Water from the Zambezi

■ DISTANT FORECAST *Lesotho*

may not provide enough in the future:

3 soweetan 2/2/95

By Duncan Guy

THE LESOTHO highlands Water Project will not be Gauteng's saviour forever. In fact the demand for water in this industrial hub is expected to exceed the supply available from the Maluti Mountains only 25 years after the turn of the century.

Looking ahead to that dry point, sources beyond South Africa are being considered. All eyes seem to be on the mighty Zambezi River which, at its closest point, not far from Victoria Falls, is surprisingly much the same distance from Gauteng as Port Elizabeth.

"South Africa is not well endowed with water and countries to the north are better watered than we are," said Piet van Niekerk, chief engineer for project planning in the Department of Water Affairs.

"As time goes on and our resources start to fall behind our requirements, we will probably want to import water from the north."

Only three years ago, consulting engineers proposed a pipeline tapping the Zambezi where it touches Botswana. It proposed carrying up to 4 000 million cubic metres of water across eastern Botswana in a 1 300 kilometre pipeline to the Hartbeespoort Dam at a cost of about R7 billion.

But the political climate was not considered right at the time, said one of the team, Basil Lund.

However, hydrologists in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) — of which South Africa is a new member — have also been casting an eye around. Their study began in 1989 and was

conducted from Lesotho, the country charged with the SADC environment, land and water management portfolio.

Next month the Zambezi River System Action Plan, the resulting initial report which has reviewed the eight countries in the river basin, is due.

"We should have all the kind of data you can think about — ranging from agricultural and water supply to transport potential," said Norwegian consultant Egil Skosteland.

The next phase will be to make several management models. Only then will it be clear what kind of projects should be developed, he said.

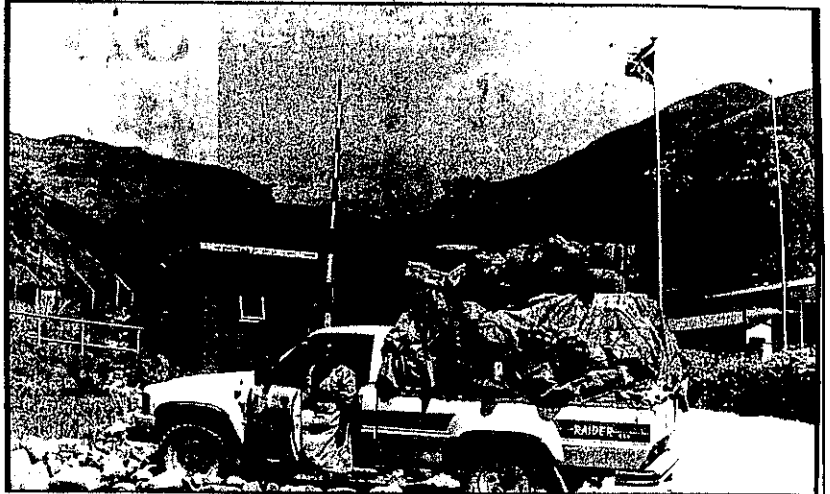
So far more than \$7 million has been secured by SADC for the project, estimated at a cost of \$54 million, according to preliminary budgets.

The Zambezi River's journey of more than 2 000 kilometres starts in the highlands of eastern Angola.

It flows through Zambia and touches Namibia and Botswana for short stretches and then a quarter of the river's entire length divides Zambia and Zimbabwe. Travelling east it spreads out massively into Lake Kariba and the Cahora-Bassa Dam in Mozambique and bisects this narrow Indian Ocean state before reaching the sea.

Major tributaries include the Kafue River in Zambia and the Shire out of Lake Malawi which has shorelines in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. In spite of good relations between the Zambezi Basin countries — all SADC members — there has been little co-operation in river research until recently, thus little data.

"The Zambezi doesn't have the same gauging sites that we do (in South Africa) so knowledge is sparse," said Van Niekerk of Water Affairs.



A storekeeper gets ready to tackle the Sani Pass into Lesotho, stocked with supplies from KwaZulu-Natal.



WATER

③ FM 3/2/95

Farmers square up against Eskom

Water resources in SA are becoming politicised as the drought tightens its hold. Nowhere is this better exemplified than in the unseemly squabble that has broken out between black and white sugar growers of the eastern Transvaal and power utility Eskom over access to the Komati basin's dwindling water resources.

The sugar farmers are lobbying furiously for more water. But Eskom is fighting hard to retain its pumping rights from the Department of Water Affairs' Vygeboom and Nootgedacht dams (see map).

Eskom pumps the "pristine" upper Komati water across the water divide for use in its power stations on the Highveld. But Lowveld sugar and tropical fruit producers say it should find water in its own back yard — from the Olifants River for example. The problem is that the Olifants is polluted by sulphates and the water would damage Eskom's cooling towers and boilers.

The farmers' response is that Eskom should use a small portion of its R1,6bn net income (1993) to clean up the water from the Olifants so that they might have access to the sorely-needed Komati water stored in the two Eskom dams.

"Eskom has huge power generating surpluses which it is exporting to the neighbouring states. It could switch (admittedly at a cost) to dry-cooled generating technology, or it could import cheaper hydro-power — but it prefers to use the water of the Komati which is needed by farmers of the lower Komati basin to produce even more surplus power," a spokesman for the irrigation farmers says.

According to Lowveld Farmers' Union estimates, since 1992 the drought has cost farmers about 300 000 t in lost sucrose production valued at R244m. As a result TSB, which owns sugar mills at Malelane and Komatipoort, has experienced "huge losses." After four years of drought the Komati River is flowing at only about 15% of its normal capacity. And sugar output is at about 60% of normal levels.

Fuel and water manager Jannie van der Westhuizen says Eskom is legally entitled to use water from the two upper Komati dams. It supports the production of 34bn kWh of electricity a year. Moreover, its use of the water predates downstream sugar and other agricultural developments.

"The Nootgedacht and Vygeboom dams are too small, too high and in too low a catchment area to effectively regulate flow in the lower Komati area. Water shortages in the lower Komati will continue until adequate downstream regulation is introduced," he says.

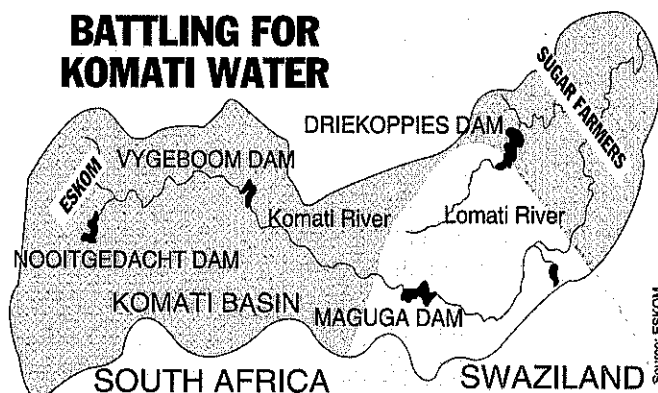
Department of Water Affairs (DWA) manager, water resources, Claus Triebel, says the two Eskom dams retain only seasonal flood waters and form part of a network that supplies Eskom's power stations with water. He says the new Driekoppies Dam, now being built on the lower Komati (which flows into the Komati) and the Maguga Dam (to be built by the year 2000 on the Komati River in Swaziland) should help solve farmers' water needs.

"The DWA will ensure that people have water. But sugar farmers created their own problem by expanding their production area without first making sure of their water resources. It's true that the water from the Olifants River could be cleaned up but this would take time and add to electricity generating costs. My advice to farmers," says Triebel, "is to wait for the completion of the two new dams."

But the 1 400 black smallholders on the

DWA will speed up the completion of the Driekoppies and Maguga dams. At the same time a powerful lobby is coming from black smallholders, who are insisting that Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal look after their "RDP" interests. ■

BATTLING FOR KOMATI WATER



Komati River, keen to start supplying TSB's new R430m Komati Mill with sugar cane, are growing impatient. Says HLH (owner of TSB) MD Neil Morris: "We are experiencing significant losses due to the lack of water and are processing about half our mills' projected capacity of 3 Mt of cane a year. With the drought and the serious economic situation in the area, the DWA has the power to decide on the future use of the Komati River's water."

Farmers have appointed legal counsel to investigate Eskom's water rights and a water consultant to look after their interests. Meanwhile negotiations between farmers, the DWA, the Swazi and Mozambican governments continue. Farmers hope the

R34m more in drought relief

PRETORIA. — Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk yesterday announced the approval of an additional R34 million for disaster relief assistance to farmers.

The additional relief was to assist farmers and rural communities affected by the drought, he said in a statement.

The funds were intended to augment the present drought relief measures and schemes of the departments of agriculture in the different provinces.

Dr Van Niekerk also announced the approval of immediate disaster relief assistance to farmers whose farms were destroyed by veld fires in the Free State.

The assistance takes the form of a 100% subsidy on the transport costs of donated stock feed and a 75% rebate on the transport cost of purchased stock feed. — Sapa

OFS farmers 'face ruin' ³

ARLT 4/2/96

BLOEMFONTEIN — Many Free State farmers whose farms were devastated by fire still faced ruin despite transport rebates on stock feed, Free State Agricultural Union disaster and emergency aid committee member Johan Neethling said.

He said farmers had gained new hope after a statement by Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk that further aid was being investigated in conjunction with the provincial Department of Agriculture and organised agriculture.

Mr Neethling said farmers in 15 districts had suffered severe fire damage to fences and farm implements, while disastrous drought conditions had led to stock losses and a drastic reduction in stock production.



GROWING FARMERS . . . Hannes le Roux, managing director of the Small Farmer Development Corporation, has been inundated with requests for assistance
Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

Millions in foreign aid await small farmers

③ ~~②~~ ST(CM) 5/2/95

By JEREMY WOODS

MILLIONS of rands worth of foreign aid is waiting to back development of viable farms for small farmers in developing communities and agricultural workers.

Once the scheme is established in the Western and Eastern Cape, it will be developed nationally.

The scheme, which is being developed by the newly set up Small Farmer Development Corporation (SFDC), has the backing of some 40 shareholders, including Sanlam, ABSA Bank, the Rembrandt Group, Unifruco and Kynoch, the fertiliser business.

These shareholders, whose board is led by Mr David Gant of Unifruco, have already raised R10-million to finance the operations of the SFDC.

This sum will be invested and the interest it yields will pay the corporation's costs.

Requests

"Funding is not the problem. There has been enormous interest from overseas funders who want to put millions of rands into commercially based schemes that will further the interest of entrepreneurs from developing communities. Our main problem is finding viable farming operations and the right people to run them," said Mr Hannes le Roux, managing director of the SFDC.

And Mr Le Roux says he has been inundated with requests for help.

"I have more projects than I can cope with. What we have to do is analyse each application and ensure that the project is viable."

Mr Le Roux said the development corporation planned to help individuals with the knowledge and commitment to become farmers, and groups of people from emerging rural communities.

He says the SFDC will act as "facilitator" to a project rather than a banker lending directly to it.

Viability

"Once we have decided on the viability of a project, we will take it to the overseas institutions and local banks interested in financing such deals and let them fund it."

Mr Le Roux, who was previously with the kwa-Zulu Finance and Investment Corporation which currently finances projects worth several hundred million rands, believes that in time the SFDC will build a substantial loan book.

"Once we have established operations, we will move the SFDC on to a national scale by setting up regional boards."

'Tax may make areas available'

Land reform vital to peace – minister

■ BY MICHAEL SPARKS

Land reform was not a fanciful whim, but was absolutely essential if the country was to enjoy peace and stability, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hannekom told a conference on land rights in Midrand yesterday.

It would not be easy and would require a "monumental national effort" to succeed, but the success of land reform was "an absolute necessity if we are truly going to enjoy peace, stability, reconciliation and development", he said.

"Landless people are impatiently waiting for a workable model; investors need stability and opportunity; developers are

eager to get going; and homeless people are getting increasingly desperate," Hannekom said.

In order for land reform to succeed it was necessary to get greater private sector involvement while also looking at incentives to increase the amount of land available to new entrants to the market, he said.

Restitution

Hannekom described the restitution of land to people who had been forcibly removed as just one part of land reform.

Another aspect was redistribution, which involved providing land for people to live on and also to farm on, with various communities having different

needs. *STAY 7/2/95*
 He added that the Government's role was to facilitate and support changes which people in the community had called for.

Hannekom said that a special sub-commission of the Katz Commission into the taxation system would this year explore the idea of a tax on agricultural land that had been mooted last year.

This aimed at reducing speculation in land, encouraging more efficient land use, leading to more land coming on to the market.

Hannekom emphasised that the legislation would provide protection to both the landless and the landowners.

Turning on Zambezi's waterworks

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project will not be Gauteng's saviour forever.

In fact, the demand for water in this industrial hub is expected to exceed the supply available from the Maifuti Mountains only 30 years from now.

Looking ahead to that dry point, sources beyond South Africa are being considered. All eyes seem to be on the mighty Zambezi River which, at its closest point, is the same distance from Gauteng as Port Elizabeth.

"South Africa is not well endowed with water," said Piet van Niekerk, chief engineer for project planning in the Department of Water Affairs.

"As time goes on and our resources start to lag, we would probably want to import water from the north."

Only three years ago, consulting engineers proposed a pipe line tapping the Zambezi where it touches Botswana.

It proposed carrying up to 4 000 million cu m of water across eastern Botswana in a 1 500 km pipeline to the Hartbeespoort Dam at a cost of about R7 billion.

But the political climate was not considered right at the time, said one of the team, Basil Lund.

However, hydrologists in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) — of which South Africa is a member — have also been casting around.

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Next month, the Zambezi River System Action Plan is due.

"Then we should have all the kind of data we can think about — ranging from agricultural and water supply to transport potential," said Norwegian consultant Egil Skotsteland.

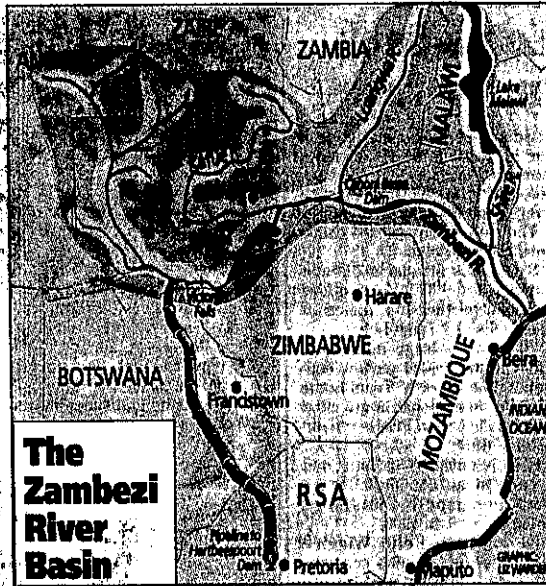
So far more than R24,7 million has been secured by SADC for the project, estimated at a cost of R30 million, according to preliminary budgets.

The Zambezi River's journey of more than 2 000 km starts in the highlands of eastern Angola.

It flows east to border Zambia with Namibia and Botswana for short stretches and then a quarter of the river's entire length divides Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Travelling east it spreads out massively into the Cahora Bassa in Mozambique and bisects this

IF Gauteng's demand for water outstrips the resources of the Highlands Water Project, we may look northward for a solution. Duncan Guy examines the potential of the Zambezi Basin



The Zambezi River Basin



Water mark ... high up in the Zambezi Basin, a fisherman paddles past a fish trap on the West Lunga River in Zambia. PICTURE: DUNCAN GUY

③
Star 7/2/95

narrow Indian Ocean state before reaching the sea.

In spite of good relations between the Zambezi Basin countries — all SADC members — there has been little co-operation in river research until recently, thus little data.

"The Zambezi doesn't have the same gauging sites as we do (in South Africa) so knowledge is sparse," says Van Niekerk.

If South Africa had to import Zambezi water, negotiations

with Zambezi Basin countries would be a crucial element in the development of projects.

Consulting engineer Lund said the potential loss to hydro-electric stations downriver (Kariba, Victoria Falls and Cahora Bassa) from an outlet feeding Gauteng, would have to be calculated.

SADC's consultant Skotsteland said Zambezi River water could also help relieve water shortages in Bulawayo, presently facing

water rationing, as well as eastern Botswana.

But in spite of the grand ideas promoting water as a regional resource, Van Niekerk cautions that South Africa should not only think of increasing its water supplies, but of developing ways to make better use of scant available water within the country's borders.

"There will be programmes in that direction," he said. "And they will start soon."

Demand for cut flowers

3
LOUISE COOK

CUT-flower exports were expected to increase to R250m a year over the next five years from the current R80m, greenhouse manufacturer Gemcon MD Gerard Marais said yesterday.

"Intensive cut-flower production in greenhouses covers only about 400ha to 500ha. The industry has been expanding by only about 10ha-15ha a year up to now. Everything points to growth of 50ha a year in the next five years."

"SA would then be in a position to match Zimbabwe, where greenhouse intensive flower and vegetable crop production had increased 50ha a year over

the past eight years.

He said local tourism was one of the factors creating the favourable climate. There was an increased demand by hotels for quality vegetables and cut flowers. *BD 7/2/95*

On the international front, export opportunities came from Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Europe, the Far East and the US.

"SA could easily exploit overseas markets because lower labour costs give producers an edge over other cut-flower exporting countries such as the Netherlands," Marais said.

Venda chiefs reject plans for entity

PIETERSBURG — Venda traditional leaders had rejected a Northern Transvaal executive council decision on the make-up of a proposed house of traditional leaders, their spokesman said yesterday.

The decision was taken after traditional leaders failed to reach consensus on the matter. Provincial commissioner for traditional authorities Benny Boshielo confirmed in Pietersburg yesterday that an advisory board of traditional leaders, appointed to assist his commission, had failed to reach consensus on how the 36-member house should be constituted.

A meeting on the issue by the Congress of Traditional Leaders of SA had also ended in dissent. Later, a meeting of all traditional leaders in the province had been deadlocked by disagreement between

Sotho delegates, wanting proportional representation, and Venda and Tsonga delegates, wanting equal representation.

Boshielo said delegates had agreed the matter should be referred to the executive council for a decision.

The executive council decided the 133 Sotho-speaking chiefs would be represented in the new house by 18 members, the 33 Tsonga leaders by 10 members and the minority Venda group by eight members.

However, a spokesman for Venda leaders said they had decided at a weekend meeting to reject the decision. Boshielo remained optimistic the house would be constituted as planned on February 21.

There were similar problems in the Eastern Transvaal, according to a spokesman for that province. — Sapa.

Namakwaland land fears

EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — Namakwaland residents fear being left out of the land reform process because they were dispossessed of their land under colonial laws before 1913, the year to which the constitution limits the land restitution process.

This was said last night by Namakwaland land claims co-ordinator Boeboe van Wyk at the launch by the Surplus People's Project of the book Land Claims in Namaqualand.

Van Wyk said the process of dispossession in Namakwaland was started under the British long before 1913.

He said the community's land had been dispossessed by large mining companies, of which De Beers was the biggest. Although De Beers could undoubtedly prove ownership of farms in Namakwaland, "we were the original inhabitants of the land", he said.

Van Wyk said the Namakwalanders did not have the resources to fight protracted legal battles, and that the issue should be settled through negotiation with the companies involved and government.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom promised to visit the area and try to solve the problem.

Fivaz orders probe into use of racist language

PRETORIA — Police commissioner George Fivaz yesterday ordered a comprehensive top-level investigation into the use of racist and abusive language by policemen in Soweto during January 27's incidents at Orlando police station.

Fivaz said he had taken this step after, for the first time, listening to one of eight tapes connected with the incident.

In line with his policy of transparency in policing, Fivaz said he had no objection in principle to making the contents of the tapes public to the fullest extent possible when appropriate.

Once the investigation and any judicial processes arising out of it were completed, the tapes would be made public.

The investigation team had been drawn from the

national inspectorate of the police and would report to him as soon as possible.

Members of the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union went on strike at Orlando in the last week of January in support of demands that five officers be transferred because of alleged racism. On January 27 members of the internal stability division were moved in and one of the strikers, W/O Jabulani Xaba, was shot dead.

Last week about 200 white and Indian policemen and other whites working for the police in Soweto sent Gauteng safety and security minister Jesse Duarte a petition requesting transfers out of Soweto because of alleged racism and foul language at the hands of black colleagues. — Sapa.

Murder charge withdrawn

CAPE TOWN — A murder charge against a Sea Point man was withdrawn because the investigating officer was too occupied with the station strangler murders, the Cape Town Magistrate's Court was told yesterday.

The state withdrew the charge against Michael Felthun, 42, after the ma-

gistrate refused to grant a further postponement.

Felthun was arrested after Kenilworth businessman Dennis Marock was found dead on October 7.

Defence attorney PJ Choritz said the constitution gave his client the right to a speedy trial. — Sapa.

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Agricultural land tax being considered

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TIM COHEN and EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — The Land Ministry had considered implementing a land tax on agricultural land of between 1% and 2% of its value, a Ministry source said.

The proposal formed part of discussions between the Land and Finance Ministries announced yesterday by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom.

Hanekom announced at an international symposium on engineering surveying that a special subcommission of the Katz commission would investigate the tax.

The Ministry had not adopted a view on whether the tax should be calculated on the basis of the land's market value or some other measure. *BD8/2/95*

No land tax is levied in SA although similar taxes were imposed in Europe, in most of North America and many countries in South America.

It is thought the tax ought to be deductible from income tax and should be levied by local authorities and used to develop local farming facilities.

Hanekom said in spite of criticism from some quarters, he was "fairly convinced" the tax could be useful.

By increasing the supply of land the tax could exert downward pressure on land prices, the tax would discourage land speculation, encourage productivity, enable farmers to pay for services such as roads and encourage the leasing of vacant farming properties, he said.

Hanekom said the institutional framework for land financing in rural areas was hopelessly inadequate to assist the poor and landless.

While various financial institutions operated in rural areas, including the Land Bank, the Agricultural Credit Board, the DBSA and others, lending criteria was restrictive. For this reason a commission was set up to investigate rural financial services provision.

He said a number of areas in regard to land tenure reform were identified at a recent workshop, and legislation was being drafted to enable communities to hold land in communal ownership. The establishment of a national inquiry on tenure reform was being investigated, he said.

Commissioners had been appointed to the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, with the commission due to start functioning on March 1995. A campaign would be launched next week to inform claimants on procedures for making claims, Hanekom said.

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Katz Commission to look at feasibility of land tax

BY ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The Katz Commission's investigation into tax reform is to be expanded to include the feasibility of a land tax.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom yesterday told a symposium on surveying at the University of Cape Town that he and Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg had agreed that a subcommittee of the Katz Commission should investigate land taxes "later

this year".

In addition to legal and institutional land reform measures, accompanying policy instruments would be explored, he said.

Hanekom said a policy instrument such as a land tax would discourage speculation in agricultural land, resulting in more land coming on to the market and encouraging more efficient use of land.

Turning to pilot land reform programmes, he said pilot districts in each province would be announced within weeks.

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These programmes were aimed at creating mechanisms for State-assisted entry into the land market for the most disadvantaged sectors of rural communities, particularly women.

The pilot land reform programme would include a planning grant to allow beneficiary groups to appoint planners to assist them with the development of an infrastructure.

Another aspect of the programme would be a land acquisition grant, he said.

Katz 'should probe land tax'

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CT 8/2/95

By PETER DENNEHY

A SPECIAL sub-group of the Katz Commission on tax "should include an investigation into land taxes in its work later this year", Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

Addressing nearly 200 delegates at an international symposium on engineering surveying at UCT yesterday, he said he had had discussions with the minister of finance, who had agreed with him about the need for the inquiry.

The farming community shivered every time he mentioned land tax, but he remained convinced it could become a useful source of local government finance. It would also tend to encourage more efficient use of land, and could even exert downward pressure on land prices.

The SA Agricultural Union has told Mr Hanekom's department that a tax on the country's agricultural land — which was valued at R36,5 billion in 1993 —

Cost will ruin us — farmers

had the potential to bring financial ruin to a large part of the farming sector.

The actual yield on capital on farms amounted, on average, to about five percent, the SAAU said. A land tax at a rate of two percent would wipe out 40% of this yield, it said.

But Mr Hanekom said he saw no reason why farmers should not pay rates, which would contribute towards the upkeep of roads which they used. "At the moment, if land is zoned agricultural, no rates are payable."

Elsewhere in his speech, Mr Hanekom said the recently-ap-

pointed Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights would start to function from March 1.

This is the group that will help people who want to claim back land taken away from them under apartheid legislation.

"A campaign will be launched next week to inform prospective claimants on the procedures and requirements for the lodging of claims," he said. Claims will have to be lodged within three years, or else they fall away.

Eventually the claims will be adjudicated on by the Land Claims Court. It will deal with claims to both state and private land. "Restitution is but a small part of our land reform programme," Mr Hanekom said.

"It barely touches on the critical issues of landlessness, rural poverty and underdevelopment."

Another part of his department's programme deals with redistribution of land, both through state-assisted schemes and through the ordinary market mechanism.

Asmal gives green light to phase 1 of Palmiet scheme

PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

APPROVAL for phase one of the Palmiet River water scheme has been granted by water affairs and forestry minister Kader Asmal.

In a statement yesterday, Professor Asmal said he had granted approval "in principle" for the scheme which will use existing facilities of the Palmiet pumped storage scheme.

It will also involve construction of an aquaduct from the Rockview Dam to Steenbras Dam, and a pipeline from Steenbras to Faure.

A study group commissioned by his department had recommended that the Palmiet phase one scheme should be the first in moves to augment water supplies for the greater Cape Town region.

The recommendation had taken into account economic, environmental

and social considerations.

Professor Asmal also said there a number of concerns about the scheme, relating to the continued environmental integrity of the Palmiet river basin.

"The department recognises the high value of the Kogelberg state forest area and concerns will be addressed by implementing an integrated management plan for the basin, involving all the main stake-holders."

Professor Asmal promised a programme to establish a culture of water conservation among all Western Cape consumers so as to increase efficiency and minimise wastage.

The public participation process initiated with regard to proposals for further dams on the lower Palmiet River and alternative schemes for water supply would continue, Professor Asmal said.

③ ARG 9/2/95

NEWS State-assisted sup

Process to return land begins

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9/2/95

■ CLAIMS COURT

Campaign will inform
claimants on procedures:

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

THE process of returning land — to its rightful owners — confiscated by successive white governments in South Africa since 1913 begins in earnest on March 1. Commissioners have been appointed to assist with documenting claims for land and an information campaign will be launched next week to inform prospective claimants of the procedures, guidelines and requirements for the lodging of claims.

Minister of Land Affairs Mr Derek Hanekom said this week that his department was presently looking into "some practical problems which may have policy implications".

He noted in particular the issue of determining the value at which private land should be acquired in restitution cases. "Government's role in the restitution process is essentially one of guiding the process to ensure it moves with speed and efficiency and does not become blocked with vested interests," said Hanekom.

"My department will be responsible for administrative support to the commissioners as well as in implementing the decisions of the (Land Claims) Court on a regular and sustainable basis with the participation of all affected parties."

Another state-assisted support programme is the pilot land reform programme which includes the establishment of mechanisms for state-assisted entry into the land market for the most disadvantaged sectors of rural society — especially women. Hanekom said these projects would be implemented over the next two years in each province of the country. Pilot districts in each of the provinces are expected to be made within weeks, he said. A portfolio of support programmes forms the basis of the pilot scheme. Included in this are a planning grant, the making available of credit and a homestead basic needs grant.

Strong resistance to land tax proposal

TIM COHEN

CAPE TOWN — The DP yesterday slated the proposed land tax, saying it could spell the death-knell of commercial agriculture. *BD 9/2/95*

The tax, suggested as a 1% or 2% annual tax on land value, was mooted on Tuesday by Land Minister Derek Hanekom who said the issue would be investigated by the Katz commission. He said by increasing the supply of land, the tax could exert downward pressure on land prices and would encourage productivity and the leasing of vacant land.

DP agriculture spokesman Errol Moorcroft said to claim farmers do not pay rates is to demonstrate ignorance as they had always paid rates for such services as they received. The abuse of a land tax to "drive down land prices" was akin to imposing a turnover tax to collapse the stock exchange.

GAVIN STAFFORD reports SA agricultural union deputy director Kobus Kleynhans said the proposed tax would place additional strain on farmers already facing rising costs, which were forcing farmers to make optimal use of their land.

He questioned whether the tax would be applicable to all agricultural land, warning of the possible effects on the small emerging farmer.

Reacting to the Minister's comments that the tax would encourage the leasing of unused land, Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said land was unused because it was impossible to farm.

He said the tax would not reduce land prices and high production agricultural land would remain expensive.

Our Port Elizabeth correspondent reports that East Cape Agricultural Union president Pieter Erasmus warned farmers would resist. "This would be flagrant discrimination against landowners." He questioned the need to put more land on the market when there was between 500 000-600 000ha of state-owned land.

Tapping Lesotho's vast source of water has proved to be a mammoth feat of engineering. Marius Bosch reports

Piping Lesotho's water to Gauteng's doorstep

Star 9/2/95 (3)

With a satisfied smile, Letuso Majalle closes the door of the underground hoist, deep in Lesotho's mountains.

"The generations that come will know their forefathers built this dam and they will be proud of us," Majalle said.

In an age when rapidly expanding populations are sharpening resource conflicts around the world, the Lesotho Highlands Water Project could be an interesting prototype of how to avoid them.

The \$5 billion (R18,5 billion) joint venture between Lesotho and South Africa will build a network of dams and channels in the remote mountains of Lesotho to funnel rainwater to the industrial heartlands of South Africa, which will soon be parched.

On the way down, the water will generate enough hydro-electricity to supply all of Lesotho's power needs.

"It sounds so impossible, but it is a reality. It is not impossible. We want to reverse the flow of water," said Les Fabian, Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) deputy chief executive for engineering and construction.

The dams will trap water which normally runs into the Orange River and west into the Atlantic Ocean, and instead turn it north towards Johannesburg.

The key to the whole project is the 185 m-high Katse Dam,

scheduled to be completed in 1996 and situated more than 3 000 m above sea level in remote mountain terrain.

Temperatures there can switch from minus 10 deg C to plus 30 deg C in less than 24 hours, testing the endurance of any man-made structure.

Tunnels with a diameter of five metres are being cut through solid mountain rock for 82 km to carry the water into Gauteng.

By 1997, some 18 cu m of water will be delivered to South Africa every second, while another dam and a power station at Muela will generate 72 mW of electricity an hour.

Interconnecting

For the final stage, in 2020, three more dams are planned and a maze of interconnecting tunnels will deliver 82 cu m of water a second.

The power station at Muela could then generate 110 mW/hours of electricity — enough to supply all Lesotho, which currently buys its power from South Africa.

Each country is paying for its part of the project, which was first agreed on back in 1986.

South Africa is building the dams and channels, and Lesotho paying for the power stations and roads. The World Bank has financed some projects, while commercial South African banks have funded others. South Africa

will also pay a royalty on the water.

The area around Johannesburg is expected to grow fast, accommodating over 40 percent of South Africa's urban population by the year 2000 and over half its industry. At the moment, it relies solely on the Vaal River.

And Lesotho for its part, surrounded by South Africa and about the size of Belgium, has seen some of its most inaccessible terrain opened up by over 400 km of roads built from scratch or improved for the project.

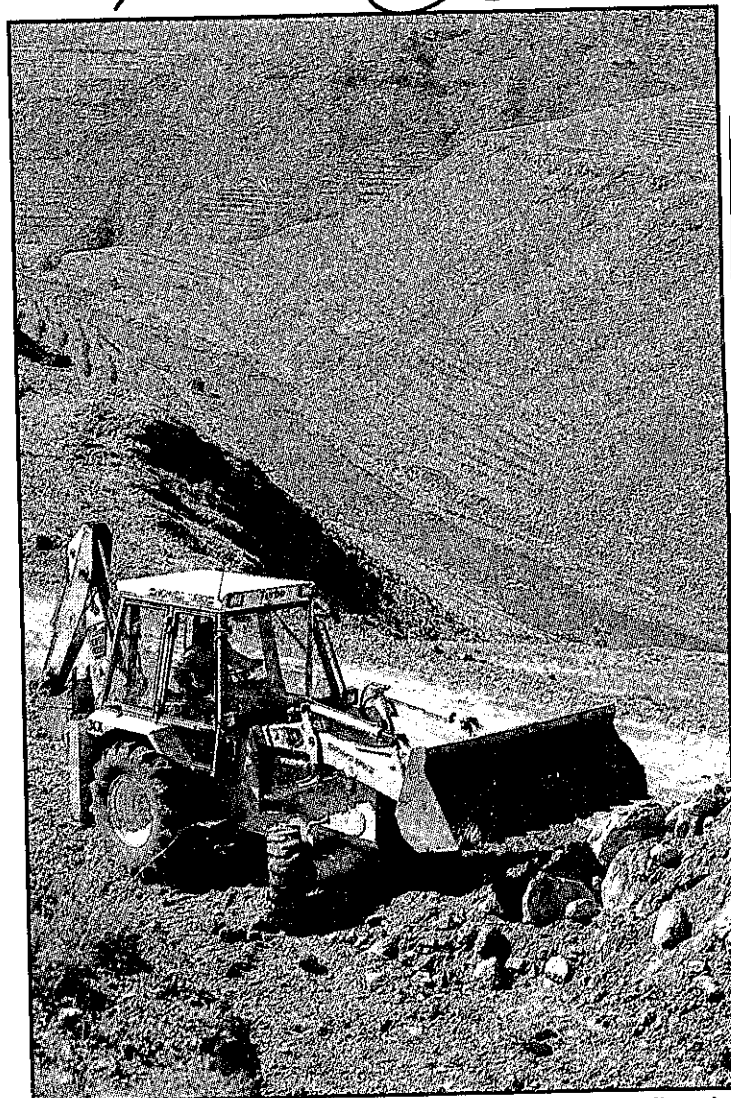
"One of the benefits is the improved infrastructure. The interior is very remote and has been opened up," said LHDA chief executive Tsebang Putsoane.

Ordinary cars now drive through some of Africa's highest mountains along the tar road to Katse Dam, an area previously only accessible by four-wheel-drive vehicles and tribesmen on horseback.

Tourists are also arriving in greater numbers and thousands of Lesotho's workers are employed on the project — 6 000 alone on the dam and power station at Muela.

"Clearly there are some other benefits, jobs have been created both during the construction of the infrastructure and also with the construction of the main works," Putsoane said.

"We are achieving what other people call perhaps the impossible," he added. — Reuter.



Pumping . . . sub-zero temperatures and dramatic climatic changes will severely test the dam's structure.

DP: Land tax 'death-knell'

~~229~~ Political Staff ③

THE land tax being promoted by Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom could spell the death-knell of commercial agriculture in South Africa, the Democratic Party said yesterday. CT 9/2/95

"The abuse of land tax to 'drive down land prices' is akin to imposing a turnover tax to collapse the stock exchange," it said in a statement issued by its spokesman on agriculture, Senator E K Moorcroft.

"Given the highly volatile nature of our agricultural industry, a land tax would undoubtedly force many farmers off the land"

'Land sales should be open'

Municipal Reporter

PUBLIC land sales should follow an "open and transparent" process, and the proceeds should go towards disadvantaged communities, says the African National Congress.

In a press statement, the ANC said it was opposed to the unilateral sale of land, particularly prior to the establishment of transitional local councils. ~~3~~ 3

However, it had recognised

that a blanket moratorium would have impaired development.

Land sales should also be done in a consultative way with community participation, and be accompanied by planning studies.

Among the land sales the ANC has objected to are a golf club in Stilbaai, the Clifton bungalow sites, and the proposed sale of the Glen beach and Bakoven bungalow sites, as well as public land in Kensington. ARG 9/2/95

Tax 'could force farmers off land'

LOUISE COOK

3 22

A LAND tax on agricultural land to be investigated by the Katz Commission could force unproductive farmers off the land, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said.

Addressing a Rural Local Government conference in Kempton Park yesterday, Hanekom said the land tax of 1% to 2% on all agricultural land would encourage efficient farmers, who would use their farms to full capacity, to leave, making more land available for more economic use.

"Farmers who doubled their production would pay, relatively speaking, less tax than those who underproduced," he said.

The introduction of a land tax was an important source of income for local government, an aid for government to carry out its land reform programme and a way to facilitate social development.

He dismissed the argument that the tax be introduced only on land not fully utilised, saying it would defeat the purpose of such a tax. The National African Farmers' Union, representing black farmers, had said a land tax should apply only to underutilised land. The SA Agricultural Union, which opposed the introduction of a land tax, said earlier it would harm small-scale black farmers.

Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg recently agreed a subcommittee of the Katz commission would probe the feasibility of introducing a land tax. BD10/2/95

Sapa reports CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg said the proposed land tax was a "transparent" attempt by government to force farmers off their property with a view to redistribution.

"Thousands of farmers could lose their land as a result, to be replaced by non-commercial farmers," he said.

Land tax 'important'

CT 10/2/95

3

JOHANNESBURG. — A land tax would help finance rural local government, Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom told delegates to a summit meeting here yesterday on rural local government.

"Land tax could be one of the most important sources of local government revenue," he said, adding it was widely used around the world.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Constitutional Affairs Minister Mr Valli Moosa said the financial viability of

rural local government bodies was crucial to their efficiency.

Mr Hanekom said rural local government bodies were important for the government's land reform plans.

The government would set up a policy framework which could respond to different local needs for land reform, but it also required local "input".

Land reform decisions, planning and implementation would take place at the local level, he said.

New ground broken for farm reform

(3) (17)
ST(BT)12/2/95

A NEW-look farming policy for the country is being pioneered by Deputy Agriculture Minister Thoko Msane.

Ms Msane led a delegation to Kenya, Rome and Washington last month to study successful small-scale farming and meet leading international agricultural agencies.

The visit is part of an investigation begun in August which is intended to result in the comprehensive restructuring of the Department of Agriculture, which has previously serviced the needs of the country's 45 000 white farmers.

The new policy brings the potential to create hundreds of thousands of rural jobs mainly through a new emphasis on small-scale farming.

The Department of Agriculture is intended to be restructured so that financial and other extension services are principally targeted to meet the needs of small-scale farmers.

The strategy, which forms part of government's agrarian reform programme, intends increasing the self-sufficiency of rural dwellers, improving food production, stimulating small- and medium-scale

By KEVIN DAVIE

agri-business and lowering food prices.

Institutions visited by Ms Msane's delegation include the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation and International Fund for Agricultural Development, both in Rome, and the Washington-based World Bank and USDA, a government body responsible for the development of agriculture.

The World Bank has arranged grant finance of R2,5-million to fund the design of the rural restructuring programme, says Ms Msane.

She is "hopeful and convinced" that the World Bank will become a substantial funder of farming reform but says this is a decision "for the country".

Kenya's land reform programme, based on the "willing buyer/willing seller" principle with active farmer support designed to assist with finance and technology, could be a useful model for South Africa, says Ms Msane.

She says rather than produce low-value products, the Kenyan programme encourages the production of higher-value products such as dairy, vegetables and cut

flowers, the latter being a successful earner of foreign exchange.

South Africa stands to gain from developing relationships with bodies such as the FAO which has expertise in areas such as combating desertification and drought.

IFAD offers specialist experience in assisting resource-poor farmers.

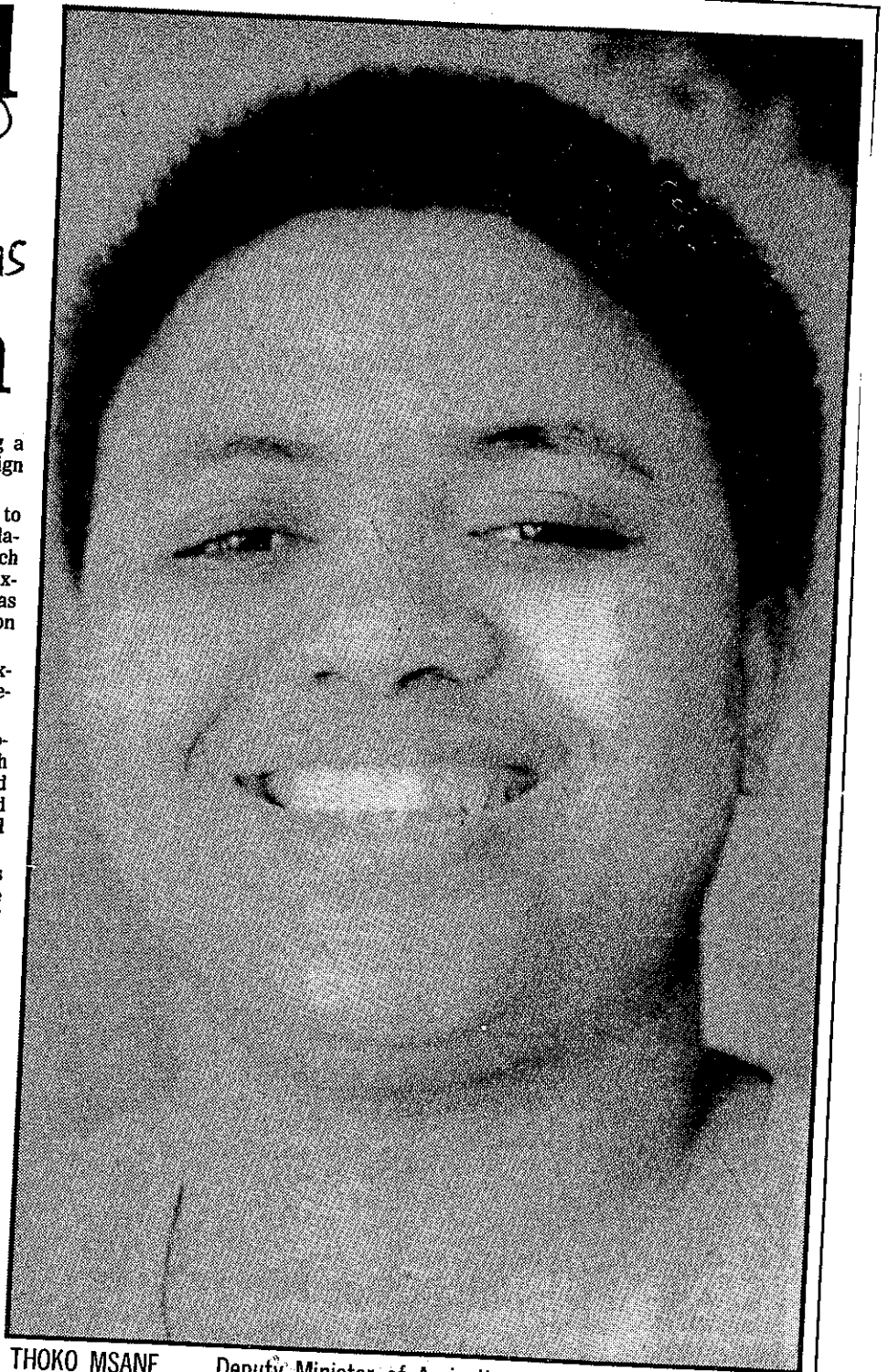
USDA, signatory to a co-operation agreement with South Africa, has invited South Africans to be trained in specialist agricultural programmes in the US.

But Ms Msane believes the relationship with these bodies will "not be one-way" as South Africa has considerable expertise in agricultural research and is prepared to share this with foreigners.

Although born on a farm, Ms Msane had given farming little thought until President Nelson Mandela announced her appointment.

But when she thought about her new job it was soon clear that without agriculture there is no food. If there is enough to eat people can sell the surplus, get money and jobs.

"There's a lot of spin-off. Food knows no politics."



THOKO MSANE ... Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Picture: JOHN HOGG

Drought 'worst in memory'

(3) Star 13/3/95

BY SHIRLEY
WOODGATE

The drought in the Free State, Eastern and Northern Transvaal, North Western Province and Eastern Cape is the worst in living memory, says Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer.

"We are sitting on a water timebomb which is straining our resources to the absolute limit," he said yesterday.

South Africa's 139 main storage dams are on average 43 percent full, and the biggest — the Gariep Dam, which is fed by the country's largest river, the Orange — is only 35 percent full. This is half the level at the same time last year.

The Department of Agriculture announced in December that it would reinstate the hundreds of thousands of rands in drought aid, which was withdrawn several years ago. The department warned farmers to plan for droughts and regard them as a normal risk.

Water Department engineer Claus Triebel has warned that restrictions are on the cards in the Gauteng region from May.

South Africa is usually a net exporter of maize, but is expected to have to import 2 to 3 million tons this year.

■ The devastation is not limited to South Africa but extends to the 11 countries covered by the Southern African Development Community.

UN food and agriculture expert John Rook has now warned people to grow short-maturing crops in the absence of late summer rains, the Independent News Service reports.

British scientists have predicted that dry conditions affecting the whole of the sub-continent could be worse than ever.

Low rainfall, poor river flows and falling reservoir levels are expected to cut the region's maize crop by half, according to research at the Institute of Hydrology, in Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

The observations are in line with warnings from other experts since late last year, when climatologists predicted the El Nino phenomenon was resurfacing.

③ ②

Land staff appointed

Sowetan
14/2/95

Political Staff

FORMER director of the SA Council of Churches Mr Joe Seremane has been appointed Chief Land Claims Commissioner.

Four regional commissioners have also been appointed. Mr Wallace Mgoqi, an attorney with the Legal Resources Centre (Western and Northern Cape); Dr Peter Mayende, a Doctor of Philosophy from the Transkei University (Eastern Cape); Ms Cheryl Walker, sociology lecturer at Natal University (KwaZulu-Natal and Free State) and Mrs Emma Mashinini, former general secretary of the now defunct Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union of SA (Gauteng, North-West, Northern and Eastern Transvaal).

Agricultural and workers' unions sign labour pact

THE Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) signed an agreement with the Agricultural Workers' Union (AWU) yesterday to co-operate on labour issues.

TAU president Eric Bruwer dismissed but said farmers needed support in a changed labour environment.

The two organisations agreed to provide farmers with legal support in labour disputes and to canvass members for the AWU.

LOUISE COOK

The AWU, with 6 000 members, also runs a 24-hour emergency telephone service to help farmers deal with labour problems.

AWU chairman Werner Weber said the TAU would concentrate on labour policy issues, while the AWU would train workers and provide a legal service for farmers.

(2) (3) BDIS/2/95

(12/1)

Curbs on 3 water loom in Gauteng

STAN 15/2/95

■ SCIENCE WRITER

Water users in the Vaal River supply area face water restrictions, possibly by May, unless good rains are recorded before the end of the rainy season, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal has warned.

The area spans five provinces: Gauteng, the Free State, North-West, Northern Cape and Eastern Transvaal.

Asmal made an urgent appeal to the public to use water sparingly. The level of the Vaal Dam is currently 16 percent compared with 42 percent at the same time last year.

The next two months will also be decisive regarding water restrictions in the Orange River supply area.

The department's director-general Thinus Erasmus emphasised that this appeal to water users was a warning.

"We will look at the situation again in May and will then know whether we will need to introduce restrictions."

Forward planning had allowed for usage of water until the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme delivered its first water into the Vaal River system.

Erasmus said one measure his department was looking at in order to curb water use was a restructuring of tariffs.

Brought and heat will push up prices across Gauteng

Harssh water cuts

RAINFALL has been consistently down in summer with dam levels countrywide at 44 percent

■ BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

The current severe drought and accompanying heatwave is expected to cause a winter of higher costs for large-scale water consumers such as industry and homeowners with extensive gardens.

They are likely to be hardest hit by a tough combination of higher water tariffs and restrictions which are on the cards for Gauteng and all other areas relying on the Vaal and Orange River systems.

There is little chance of an early end to the drought that is a blight on the central, eastern and northern parts of the country.

Claus Triebel, resources manager at the Water Affairs Department, says the curbs are inevitable unless the next eight weeks bring heavy rain to fill the dams and green the parched grazing lands.

The signal for rain would be moist air moving south from the Equator. This has not occurred this year after the El Nino phenomenon resurfaced in the Pacific region.

The water cuts are likely to be accompanied by increased tariffs, first hinted at by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal last year when he suggested nationwide tariff rises which would force large consumers to pay more on a sliding scale for increased consumption, while the poor go on to a "lifeline" tariff.

Letaba District Agricultural Union chairman Edward Vorster said any attempt to make irrigation farmers pay more for water would be resisted.

Speaking for the drought-devastated Lowveld region where fruit and vegetable farmers have been forced to

sink boreholes at great personal cost to compensate for the lack of supply from the empty Tzaneen Dam, he said additional water rates would cripple the agricultural industry.

"Farmers are producing food for the nation and if we are forced to pay higher tariffs for irrigation water over and above what we are spending on boreholes, the cost of food will inevitably go up," he said.

Triebel said that after ongoing discussions, municipalities would probably be asked to implement the new tariff structure, with the proviso that the system be introduced "carefully" so that any resultant drop in consumption did not hit the various councils' income.

Rainfall has been consistently down for the entire summer season (only 14,4 mm this month compared with 141 mm last year and a long-term average of 103 mm for February) and above average falls are necessary before May.

The Vaal Dam is being maintained at 15,9 percent by water released from the feeder Sterkfontein Dam, which is down to 76 percent.

There is no danger that the Sterkfontein Dam will empty, as supplies are replenished by pumping water up from the Tugela River.

The 139 major dams in South Africa are now only 44 percent full, compared with 62 percent in February 1994.

16/2/95

100m

Gulf War hero turns his talents to agriculture

AZG 16/2/95 (3)

Staff Reporter

FRIENDS of Farm South Africa (FFSA), an organisation that works to raise awareness of the problems experienced by small farmers, has enlisted the aid of Gulf War British hero Peter de la Billiere to help them in their work.

Sir Peter is a member of the board of Farm-Africa, a registered charity organisation committed to help the small farmers and herders of Africa.

Farm Southern Africa representative David Catling said the organisation was delighted about the presence of the soldier-turned-farmer.

"Farm-Africa came to South Africa in 1992 when it established the Land Development Unit (LDU) in partnership with the Institute of Social Development at the University of the Western Cape.

"We work with marginalised, mainly coloured small farmers liv-

ing in rural reserves, helping them to become more productive with agriculture so they can feed themselves and their families.

"It's a joint operation. We don't tell the farmers what to do — we sit down with them and work through their problems and difficulties."

Mr Catling said the organisation was also involved in vegetable garden projects in the townships, and acted as an advisory body for a number of government ministers, colleges and other agriculture-related bodies.

Sir Peter said Farm-Africa had gained a wealth of experience working with small farmers and herders in East Africa.

"If this knowledge can be of value to small marginal farmers in this country we would like to play a role in this area of development," he said.

**ARE YOU
INTERESTED**

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AG 16/2/95 (3)

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Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

FARM HANDS: David Campbell, Peter de la Billiere and David Caating, all of Farm-Africa, enjoy some Cape hospitality at the launch of the Friends of Farm South Africa.

Now he fights for hearts and minds

ARLT 16/2/95 (3)

SWOPPING tanks for tractors and swords for ploughs may be part of the British army's campaign to win the hearts and minds of the locals in some of the territories it finds itself.

But for Peter de la Billiere, commander of the British forces during the Gulf War, it was the sweet smell of fresh soil that got the better of him, and he now uses his knowledge of the land to help others.

Sir Peter, the soldier turned farmer, was also the commander of the army's elite Special Air Service (SAS) unit when it regained the Falkland Islands from the Argentinians in 1982.

Staff Reporter **JOSEPH ARANES** meets an ex-soldier involved in what he calls "the hearts and minds campaign" — committed to helping small farmers and herders in Africa.

"I spent 41 years in the army and the best part of my life in the SAS. While on an assignment in Oman, in the Middle East, part of the plan was to restore the country's agriculture, especially in the fertile Salalah Plains."

British forces were sent to the region to repress a communist rebellion and help install a new sultan.

"But the military action was only a small part of the political direction we took. We don't operate on our own and it's very important for

the running of a country that all other sectors like agriculture, commerce and industry, and politics go hand in glove with the military operations.

"We flew in agriculturalists and advisers, and the SAS started greening the area again.

"Local farmers formed part of the reconstruction of the area and soon they started farming as they had before the rebellion, and the plain blossomed. All part of the hearts and minds campaign."

Sir Peter said he always

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When he retired he was invited by Farm-Africa to serve on their board."

Farm-Africa is a leading agricultural development agency committed to the development of small farmers and herders in Africa.

"We help farmers develop their agriculture by providing technical assistance and jointly developing appropriate farming systems.

"The organisation has gained a wealth of experience working with small farmers and herders in other parts of Africa, and we brought it here in the hope that previously marginalised farming communities can emerge as successful farmers."



Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

FARM HANDS: David Campbell, Peter de la Billiere and David Culling, all of Farm-Africa, enjoy some Cape hospitality at the launch of the Friends of Farm South Africa.

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'Compensation' for victims of apartheid

By BARRY STREEK,
Political Staff

ET16/2195

THE Commission for the Restitution of Land Rights would examine all valid land claims but would emphasise justice, reconciliation and negotiation in its approach, its chief commissioner Mr Joe Seremane said yesterday.

In urban areas it would concentrate on compensation for victims of apartheid removals rather than the restoration of land, because that was usually impossible, he said.

There could be restoration in urban areas where there was vacant land, such as District 6.

The commission is to be publicly launched this morning in Cape Town.

Mr Seremane said the commission would start to function on March 1. "The set period for the commission is three years," he said.

There would be four regional commissioners, each with their own office. The commission's investigations would cover all land which had been removed from people in terms of apartheid legislation.

Most of the commission's work would be in the rural areas but it would also include urban areas. "We will concentrate on compensation in the urban areas, and not the restoration of land. That is the only way."

3721 ARCF/b/2/95

Land claims 'will not carve big budget slice'

1995
Political Correspondent

MINISTER of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom has moved to calm fears that land restitution claims will carve a huge slice out of the national budget.

While thousands of people were affected by claims for land seized from them under apartheid, the actual amount of land involved was "quite limited", he said.

At a press briefing today, Mr Hanekom said money had been set aside in this year's budget for land claims.

But just how much money would be needed would become clear only when the restitution process was under way.

Accurate budgeting for the

process would be possible only in the 1996/97 year.

Mr Hanekom said it was possible that settlement in some land claims in cities could be expensive.

But legislation provided for alternative ways of settling these claims.

The act covers only claims for land seized after 1913.

Mr Hanekom said this did not mean there was no provision for people who had lost land during the colonial era.

A separate redistribution programme would seek to deal with the needs of communities denied access to land on racial grounds.

3 000 land restitution claims submitted to govt

3 ADRIAN HADLAND

CAPE TOWN — Government had received 3 000 applications for the restoration of land taken away as a result of race-based laws, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

Introducing new appointees to the Restitution of Land Rights Commission, Hanekom said the applications would be passed on to the commission for its consideration.

BD 17/2/95
"I am elated that we have finally arrived at the stage where the commission can begin its task."

In the face of this immense job, the new commissioners were "feeling a bit overwhelmed", Hanekom said.

The 3 000 claims consisted of several categories of application, which would make the commission's task slightly easier.

Deputy land claims commissioner Wallace Mgoqi said it was morally imperative to begin land restoration as quickly as possible.

The process would give the affected citizens a "sense of believing" in government's commitment to justice, he said.

The commission's first duties included setting priorities for its work and establishing regional offices.

Hanekom said significant funds would be made available to the commission in next month's Budget.

While hundreds of thousands of people were likely to be affected by the restitution process, the land involved was not that extensive and should not cost the country too much, he said.

Other members of the commission include chief commissioner Joe Seremane, Peter Mayende, Cheryl Walker and Emma Mashinini.

Land claims will not batter the Budget, says Hanekom



Bid to calm fears . . . Minister Derek Hanekom.

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom has moved to calm fears that land restitution claims will carve a huge slice out of the national Budget.

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3 (3) Nov 17/2/95
would be needed would become clear only when the restitution process was under way, which was expected to begin later this year.

Accurate budgeting for the process would be possible only in the 1996/97 year.

Hanekom said it was possible that settlement of some land claims in cities could be somewhat expensive.

But the Restitution of Land Rights Act provided for alternative ways of settling these claims.

He said he was elated that a commission had reached the

point where it could start work.

Acknowledging that the Act was not enough to address all wrongs in land matters, he said the measure still set South Africa on the road to reconciliation and reconstruction.

The Act covers only claims for land seized after 1913.

Hanekom said this did not mean there was no provision for people who had lost land during the colonial era.

A separate redistribution programme would seek to deal with the needs of communities denied access to land on racial grounds.

KwaZulu recruits refuse medicals

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban — Several trainees at the KwaZulu Police college in Ulundi have refused to subject themselves to medical tests.

Already 14 recruits have been found to be carriers of contagious diseases, which debar them from being police officers.

This refusal has made it impossible for KwaZulu/Natal po-

lice authorities to meet a deadline set by national police commissioner George Fivaz for all information about the trainees to be handed to the investigating task unit.

222
The number of trainees who have been found to have criminal records among about 600 recruits due to have graduated recently has increased to 42.

Whistle and tickle convince jury

London — All it took was a whistle and a tickle for a stolen parrot to convince a jury of its identity and owner.

Jurors were hearing the case of a man accused of handling stolen goods when Georgina Morgans, a 27-year-old garden centre manager, tickled the bright green-and-red parrot without being nipped.

"There was laughter in the court as the parrot turned itself upside down to be near her as it emitted two loud whistles," observers said.

The display of affection was enough to convince the jury that the bird had been stolen from Morgans, and that it did not belong to the defendant, who was found guilty. He will be sentenced next month. — Reuter.



LAND COMMISSIONERS: Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, third from right, with the newly appointed land commissioners, from left, Emma Mashinini, Peter Mayende, Wallace Mgoqi, Joe Seramane and Cheryl Walker. The Commission on Restitution of Land Rights is charged with redressing injustices caused by forced removals and the dispossession of land rights based on race-based laws since 1913. At least 3 000 claims, already lodged with the Department of Land Affairs, are to be forwarded to the commission, which is expected to start hearing claims from the end of April.

Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

ARG 17/2/95

Land Act 'not enough'

THE work of the Land Claims Court and the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights would be jeopardised if it did not include additional redistribution programmes. Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

The Restitution of Land Rights Act was not enough to address all the wrongs and imbalances in land distribution, he said at the launch of the commission in Cape Town.

In particular, the commission could only redress injustices caused by forced removals and the dispossession of land based on race-based laws from 1913 onwards — Sapa.

Up to R200-m wasted each year

Cutting water loss

3 (28) STAR 22/2/95

Municipalities in the Gauteng area are losing between R137 million and R203 million a year on huge quantities of water which are used without being accounted for.

A source in the provincial administration said that the equivalent loss in the reasonably well managed system in Europe would be about 50 percent to 60 percent of the Gauteng figure.

A number of factors contributed to this high level of wastage, he said.

Among these was the relatively cheap, uniform tariff for water — R1 a kilolitre — which gave

municipalities little incentive to save water.

This, said the official, would change later this year when the Rand Water Board moved to introduce a sliding tariff, in accordance with the Reconstruction and Development Programme's proposals.

This will allow for every household to purchase an essential quantity of water at low tariff, but will load the price on consumption above the basic level.

Implementing the sliding scale would depend on good metering systems, both for bulk distribu-

tion and for individual useage.

The Rand Water Board has effectively been without any means of penalising water wasters and has not always had enough data to determine which municipalities are to blame.

But, the provincial official said, information had been collected in recent years which would enable the board to distinguish the inefficient water users from the efficient local authorities.

There was also talk of legislation to compel local authorities to conduct water audits. — Municipal Reporter.

high.

Cape University professor Colin ship expected of it".

Black farmers reject rates plan

AN INVESTIGATION by the Rural Financial Services Commission into agricultural interest rates is likely to spark a showdown between the National African Farmers' Union and monetary policymakers.

The farmers' union yesterday rejected proposals in the White Paper on agriculture to switch away from subsidised rates to market-related rates.

GM Steven Mokwena said that the union would have "a serious problem" if the current 8% rate was to change.

Mokwena said government needed to subsidise emerging farmers' interest rates, or they would not be able to buy land. He called for the gap between the production and market values of land to be subsidised by the state.

Agriculture Credit Board chairman Kossie van Zyl said yesterday that the 1% hike in the Bank rate to 14% would have no effect on government's 8% subsidised rate to commercial and emerging farmers "for the time being".

BD 22/2/95

(3) LOUISE COOK

Sources said Finance Minister Chris L. had reprimanded the Agricultural Credit Board for its policy of subsidising interest rates. The board had hit back, saying that a change to market related rates would be difficult in the light of the number of white farmers who had already benefited from subsidised rates.

The interest rate issue would be investigated also by the Rural Financial Services Commission. Van Zyl said the board had made proposals to the commission, but he declined to say what they were.

"Emerging farmers cannot simply be left in the doldrums. The abolition of subsidised rates will at least have to be replaced by grants."

Land Bank GM Freddie van Staden said the bank would "most likely" increase its interest rates to farmers. But it would first "wait and see" what the commercial banks did.

Union blames tribal leaders

MANAGEMENT of hostels by tribal leaders was to blame for violence at Goldfields' Deelkraal mine near Carletonville on the West Rand, the National Union of Mineworkers said.

It said yesterday hostel administrators were selected on tribal lines "and given considerable power over workers' lives".

The NUM called for the election of a 10-man committee to run the hostels, in conjunction with tribal leaders, for a short period.

The union said workers had begun hunger strikes and a stayaway.

Goldfields said it would react to the union's remarks later. — Sapa.

BD 22/2/95

Farmers hope for treaty to move into Mozambique

(3) ARG 22/2/95

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South African farmers planning to move to Mozambique are hoping the two governments will soon sign a bilateral agreement guaranteeing them security — or allowing them to provide their own.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano might come to South Africa next week for this purpose.

"The agreement must also allow South African farmers to take their equipment over the borders and detail how long they will be able to stay," said Mr Bruwer.

He, along with Free State Agricultural Union president Dr Piet Gous, held talks with President Chissano in Maputo last week.

Mr Bruwer said about 1 000 farmers would probably be involved in cattle and game schemes in Mozambique's southern Gaza province as

well as irrigation schemes along the Zambezi River.

"Some of the farmers concerned have been forced off their land by the drought in South Africa. Others, like my own family, will just be expanding themselves."

He said it was also important to establish a body of auditors that could answer to international financial institutions to which they would apply for capital.

Mr Bruwer explained: "Gous and I put it to President Mandela that in due time we won't have the ability to produce enough food for South Africa.

"We must go from here to a better, more 'agro-friendly' climate."

The involvement of the two agricultural unions, Bruwer stressed, was to ensure the enterprise took off in a structured way.

"Otherwise there will be tremendous trouble trying to market produce out of Mozambique where there is very little infrastructure."

Water for rural areas

③ BD 23/2/95
LOUISE COOK

THE R161m Vulindlela regional water scheme would supply water to 250 000 people in the Maritzburg rural areas in five years' time, project manager Peter Robinson said.

He said planning of phase one of the biggest of 12 reconstruction and development programme (RDP) water projects in the country was well advanced.

It would extend Maritzburg's main water supply from the Midmar waterworks to more than 52km² west of the city.

At the moment the rural population in the area obtained water from the Umzimduzi river and springs.

Other RDP water projects include the R41,5m Arabie project in the Northern Transvaal, the R23m Winterveld project in the Northwest and, in the same province, the R58m Moretele project that will blend and purify water from the Apies and Pienaars rivers to supply local communities.

Grain shortage forecast

3

~~SECRET~~

LOUISE COOK

~~SECRET~~

THE Southern African Development Community was expected to record a 3.6-million ton grain shortage this year, with members reporting a 50% drop in production compared with last year, Baird's Africa Review said.

The weekly Africa intelligence service reported that the spreading drought, covering a large area of the southern African continent, would stunt economic growth and push up national debt figures.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation described the situation as "alarming".

BD 24/2/95
In Lesotho the harvest was forecast to be only 9% of last year's production at 26 000 tons, in Mozambique more than a million people depended on emergency food supplies and the Zambian government planned to import 3-million bags of maize. SA has suspended maize exports.

Minister opposes bid to resettle farmers

BD 24/2/95

LOUISE COOK

PRETORIA — Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk criticised the Transvaal and Free State agricultural unions for their efforts to resettle SA farmers in Mozambique.

Van Niekerk warned at the Agricon conference that farmers seeking opportunities "between landmines" could face a lack of markets as well as a lack of safety following the war in that country. He said they could be accused of creating a new form of colonialism.

He warned against creating "pockets of white affluence" in neighbouring states.

"SA farmers could be drawn into a politically flavoured situation in Mozambique," he said.

Van Niekerk warned that it would have been acceptable if the farmers moved there for the purposes of exchanging knowledge and skills, but the invitation and initiative for this should have come from Mozambique, not the agricultural unions.

Van Niekerk said additional produce from Mozambique, marketed in SA, would deprive farmers who remained in SA.

The Free State and Transvaal agricultural unions, led by Freedom Front leader Constand Viljoen this week returned from a visit to Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano to pave the way for farmers to settle there.

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo, meanwhile, was accused of a lack of interest in the reconstruction and development

programme (RDP) and failing to attend the conference.

Agricultural policymakers said the RDP office had missed a good opportunity to spell out its needs to the agricultural sector and to boost the RDP. Sources said Naidoo had been approached months ago to open the conference, but had notified organisers only this week that no one from the RDP office was able to attend.

In his opening address, Visimed MD Kobus Loubscher said the RDP would fail if its main function was the static redistribution of wealth.

The RDP had to be visionary in its approach and government should not fall into a trap of "overdemocratising and oversimplifying" structures.

Van Niekerk said a vibrant agricultural sector was one of the cornerstones of the RDP because it created employment and training opportunities, provided food and encouraged technological development.

"I am of the opinion that the agricultural sector has gone a long way to realise the objective of economic empowerment for the people of SA."

Agriculture was well equipped with an infrastructure capacity to realise RDP objectives, Van Niekerk said.

He said commercial agriculture had been largely free of government support, "save for one or two commodities".

POLITICS Court officials and PAC clash ● 3 000 claims to be heard in April

PAC in surprise march on court

THE Pan Africanist Congress staged a surprise march to the Grahamstown Supreme Court yesterday after the refusal of court officials to fax their petition to Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar last week.

The march was defused

Date set for land claims kick-off

THE land claims commission was expected to start hearing about 3 000 claims by people alleging dispossession by racist measures on April 1, Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

The Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights is due to sit for three years.

Addressing a media briefing in Cape Town, Hanekom said most of the claims were by city-dwellers removed from their land or property as a result of the Group Areas Act and other apartheid laws.

Details on a pilot land reform and financing project in the nine provinces would be released next Tuesday.

Land reform takes place in the context of the recon-

struction and development programme to bring justice and equity."

It would mostly be a local government function, to address land needs and concentrate on the most desperate cases.

However, the Government did not want restitution or land claims to "hang over the market for ever". Effective land use should be a priority.

The commission, which would try to settle disputes through mediation and negotiation, would hear cases of people who lost land rights as a result of racially discriminatory laws from 1913 onwards.

The commission's brief was limited and would not

deal with broad ancestral claims preceding 1913.

Generally, claimants could have their land rights restored, be offered alternatives or compensation.

Financing was an essential component of land reform and rural financial services commission had been set up to help the poorest claimants.

It would also assist people who could not raise bank loans because they did not own property.

Hanekom said his department was progressing with restitution, land redistribution and tenure rights.

Fellow departments had offered infrastructural help to those people who moved back to previously dispossessed land. — Sapa.

Sowetan 24/2/95

(3)

George Huysamer

and Partners Incorporated

Registration No 76/00464/21

The new company has in all with the requirements of the JSE of a stockbroking business.

will through its new shareholder structure be perfectly positioned to opportunities which the new dis- may offer.

of the new company is confident y will service its clients with the ence as has been the hallmark of business of GGH for the past

Commission to start hearing land claims

CAPE TOWN — The land claims commission was expected to start hearing about 3 000 claims on April 1 by people alleging dispossession of their land by racist measures, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

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Addressing a news briefing in Cape Town, he said most of the claims were by city dwellers removed from their land or property by the Group Areas Act and other apartheid laws.

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Land reform would mostly be a local government function. It had to address land needs and concentrate on the most desperate cases.

Agricultural Minister Kraai van Niekerk said in Pretoria yesterday that "blackmailing the agricultural industry with socialist measures such as a land tax" while asking it to scrap so-called socialist marketing schemes was unacceptable.

He said it was time to clear up uncertainties arising from statements on land tax and the redistribution of land.

Van Niekerk said accelerated economic growth was the only way to enable more people to benefit from the country's agricultural resources.

It was time for realism on what was viable and what was not. Agriculture in SA could succeed only if it was assured of minimum government intervention.

"Using land tax to achieve political aims would be a blatant disregard of economic realities," Van Niekerk said. — Sapa.

3 000 want land back

③

CT 24/2/95

Political Staff

MORE than 3 000 land claims from people who had lost their land through apartheid laws had already been received by the government, the Minister of Land Affairs, Mr Derek Hanekom, said yesterday.

The claims, mostly from the urban areas, would be examined by the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, which will operate from April

1 and try to mediate and settle all claims.

Mr Hanekom said at a media briefing in Cape Town that dissatisfied claimants could appeal to the Land Claims Court.

In some claims, particularly in the urban areas, there could be no restitution of land, but there could be compensation or redistribution.

Details of nine reform projects will be released on Monday.

DEREK HANEKOM

Man of the land

(3) FM24/2/95

In the dark days of apartheid, films on SA were made on the similar terrain of Zimbabwe. This might explain why Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom played bit parts in *A World Apart* and *A Dry White Season*. Corraling people from Harare's ANC base — Hanekom was there from 1987-1990, documenting the struggle as co-ordinator of the Popular History Trust — was a logical move on the part of movie makers.

That it's difficult to separate the man from the land — and the land from the man — is what strikes you about the 41-year-old, one-time Kuilsriver (1977) and Magaliesburg (1978-1983) farmer. And this despite the fact that for five years prior to his ministerial appointment, Hanekom manned the ANC's land & agricultural desk at Shell House.

Hanekom is known for his lateral thinking, for the enthusiasm he brings to his tasks and for imbuing departmental cartographers with a purpose in life — at last. However, he is also known for gently treading on other departmental toes, cutting parliamentary corners and the occasional gaffe — like wanting to make the internationally famous Kruger National Park name more politically correct.

Still, few if any other white Ministers have been hoisted on to the backs of SA's blacks — a moment of triumph captured on TV last year and a testament to the warm way his land reform package, notably the Land Restitution Act, was received in some quarters. What has not won him all-round acclaim, particularly in SA Agricultural Union circles, is his controversial land tax proposal.

Apart from having made Hollywood history, Hanekom and his wife, Trish, played a significant role in the Nkomati Accord. This was being wrapped up between SA and Mozambique when, in 1983, Hanekom was arrested.

While farming in the Magaliesburg, the couple were working clandestinely for ANC structures in Botswana. A recruit they served, Roland Hunter, was doing his national service in the defence force military intelligence unit dealing with Renamo operations in Mozambique. The information he passed on was "so hot" the Frelimo government used it as leverage in the talks.



Hanekom

All three were arrested under the Official Secrets Act and imprisoned — the Hanekoms for three years. What made his first year in Pretoria Central even harder was the death of his father, Alfonso.

Hanekom was schooled at Jan Van Riebeeck High in Cape Town. He did not complete his BCom through Unisa. He jokingly says: "They let me out a year too early."

He is now trying to find the time to do a Masters in Agricultural Economics on broad agricultural policy at Pretoria University.

Hanekom's political evolution began in the Sixties, under the influences of "more intellectually endowed" friends and Marx's *Das Kapital*.

In the early Seventies, he underwent a stint in the US, in a Pennsylvanian factory — notable for its absence of workers' rights — while working his way around the world. In the late Seventies, he did odd jobs in Johannesburg and learnt about conditions in the townships through black workers.

Hanekom became involved in Christian activist circles through his brother, Kallie. Liberation theologian Albert Nolan has also left his mark.

His parents never agreed with the ANC but respected their children's views, all three of whom are active in the organisation now.

Hanekom praises his wife, whom he met in 1977 and married in 1981, for her "enduring kindness." One of his few hobbies is jogging. ■

PAOLO CAVALIERI

Fit to take off

New York-based, widely diversified global insurance group AIG (American International Group) recently announced it would return to SA and wholly acquire associate AI Insurance. It is a move which is bound to make renamed AIG SA and its talkative, fit-looking new MD, Paolo Cavalieri (36), better known.

AIG, which founded AI Insurance in the early Sixties, disinvested in 1987. However, as Cavalieri points out, "our former parent retained a firm and direct relationship with us for the simple reason that when it left

SA, it became our reinsurer."

AIG SA has only a modest market share — annual turnover is about R130m — but Cavalieri claims its capacity to accept insurance risk has enabled it to be lead underwriter on some of SA industries' largest insurance programmes.

"We are highly focused in the corporate fields," he says, "as well as in accident and health. Our direction has followed that of AIG's elsewhere in the world." He adds that there will be no change in management in the wake of the giant's return to SA.

Cavalieri was appointed MD in mid-1993 and, against the industry's general experience, had a good year, producing an underwriting profit in 1994 of more than R1m. But then, it's in the blood.

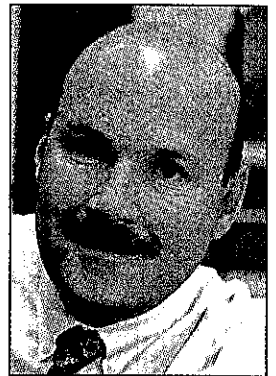
His father, Cesare, was sent here in the late Fifties to head up Italian-owned Standard General and is still in the industry as executive chairman of the local arm of travel insurance giant Europe Assistance. His brother, George, is a broker.

Cavalieri was schooled at King Edward VII in Johannesburg and graduated from Wits with a B Com and from Unisa with Honours in business economics. His insurance career began in 1985 at the French subsidiary of Standard General's controlling company, Generali.

He and his wife, Julia, whom he had met at Wits and married just before he left, "spent what could be described as a four-year honeymoon in Paris." In 1989, he was transferred to Generali Belgium in Brussels and a year later returned to SA. In 1992, Cavalieri was appointed GM of Standard General's short-term operations.

Though he enjoys keeping abreast of current affairs, travelling and collecting Swatch wristwatches, most of his after-hours interests are sporty. A multiple SA rowing champion, he won French and Belgian championships in the years 1986-1989 and was coach of the SA Olympic team in Barcelona. He also used to race saloon cars and was a member of the BMW SA factory/dealer team.

Now he and Julia — who recently quit reinsurance broking to become "site manager" for the house they are building — cycle together in preparation for the annual Argus Cycle Tour. ■



Cavalieri

(3)
AGRICULTURE
FM 24/2/95
Grim harvest

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk has confirmed the grim outlook for the farming sector this year as drought continues to ravage about 17% of SA's surface area.

At a briefing in Cape Town this week, Van Niekerk essentially agreed with expert assessments last month (*Business January 20*) that 1995 would see a massive reversal of many of the gains made last year.

He said a maize crop of only about 5 Mt was expected this year (compared with 12,2 Mt last year). Though there would be a carry-over of 2 Mt from the 1994 harvest, it was still possible that white maize would again have to be imported.

Van Niekerk said the drought was also a setback for stock farmers who would probably have to interrupt the process of herd building which was essential for the stability of future meat production.

Higher interest rates this year — prime is expected to rise two percentage points — could put farmers under "serious additional financial pressure."

By the end of last year, agricultural debt totalled R20,2bn — 10,2% up on 1993. An expected inflation rate of 10,7% this year, compared with 9% last year, was further bad news.

Summing up the outlook for the three main farming sectors Van Niekerk said:

- Agronomy production would decrease by 21% to R6,9bn mainly because of the 60% drop in maize production;
- The gross value of horticultural production would increase by 22% to R7,8bn owing to higher production and better prices. Income from deciduous and other summer fruit would increase by 37% and from vegetable production by 18%;
- Cattle slaughtering would decrease by 5% and beef prices would be 12% higher. Sheep slaughtering would increase marginally but prices would rise by 11%. Though wool production would fall 2%, a considerable improvement in wool prices was expected.

Van Niekerk said other expectations were that: the contribution of the agricultural industry to GDP this year would drop by 2% to R17,1bn; spending on intermediate goods and services would increase by 8% to R11,9bn; interest payments would rise by 8,9% to R3bn; labourers' wages would go up 10% to R4,2bn; and stock inventory would increase by R460m. ■

"The new committee will focus on terms that are heavily one-sided, placing parties on an unequal footing. Contracting parties often have little real bargaining power when it comes to specific terms in a contract."

She says automatic renewal clauses in leases are a typical example of areas of potential abuse; the reams of fine print often attached to contracts are another.

But the committee won't be confined to looking only at standard contract forms. "The public can submit any term from any type of contract to the committee for scrutiny and consideration."

Sceptics argue that parties are free to walk away from terms they don't like. Tager disagrees: "Where it comes to consumer issues, a lot of people simply don't know their rights. The increasing number and nature of complaints received by the committee is proof of this."

Tager says a party seeking to enforce an unfair term will be called before the committee and asked to reconsider its position. If it fails to co-operate, the committee could ask the Minister for Trade & Industry to declare the contract a harmful business practice in terms of the Act. ■

Call to halt parastatal land sales ⁽³⁾

THE Land Affairs Department has asked all parastatals to halt land sales pending clarity on a redistribution policy, alarming some proponents of privatisation.

A Land Affairs spokesman said at the weekend the department had asked for a moratorium on state land sales while it worked on its facilitation Bill on "fast-track development" in urban areas.

Transnet property GM Malcolm Mackintosh said the state-owned transport group — which had been on a drive to sell off "surplus" property — had been asked to suspend land sales until further notice.

Transnet said last August it had identified more than R560m worth of "surplus" property in a drive to offload or develop

MUNGO SOGGOT

surplus assets worth almost R1bn.

One source said if Transnet was going to be privatised, the request should be reconsidered. Another said: "If they are going to privatise Transnet, they should not meddle with it". The move would also deprive Transnet of a method of cutting the hefty deficit on its pension fund.

Meanwhile, the Land Affairs spokesman said the pilot land reform project would start on February 28. The Gauteng government said last month its pilot project would examine conditions in several rural communities in the province. Study groups in several communities would be set up.

80 28/2/95

April launch for land court

3 (223) ST(CM) 26/2/95

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other apartheid laws.

Details on a pilot land reform and financing project in the nine provinces would be released next Tuesday.

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to help the poorest claimants.

It would also assist people who could not raise bank loans because they did not own property.

Land reform would mostly be a local government function. It had to address land needs and concentrate on the most desperate cases. Infrastructural help had been offered to dispossessed people moving back on to their land. — Sapa.

Marketing fight goes to Parliament

By KEVIN DAVIE

THE battle to free up agricultural markets moves to Parliament on Wednesday, when controversial proposals on marketing will be discussed.

The standing committee on agriculture, chaired by ANC MP Janet Love, has invited interested parties to put their views to the committee.

A draft White Paper, completed last year which proposes new statutory powers to control agricultural marketing is also likely to feature in the hearing.

Academics, consumer groups, large food companies and political parties have been fighting to free up the system by ensuring that marketing be conducted on a voluntary basis.

There are fears that powerful producer interests will steamroller other interests if control boards retain the marketing powers which they have enjoyed in the past.

The draft says statutory arrangements must be sufficiently supported by all directly affected parties.

Control boards, composed of representatives of the affected parties, may at any time request that a marketing measure or scheme be amended or suspended.

The draft says the constitution demands freedom of association and freedom of choice.

This must be a cornerstone of agricultural marketing policy "while also accepting that this basic right might be curbed where deemed reasonable and justifiable in the public interest.

"Agriculture will still have access to statutory marketing instruments where necessary, but the mandating procedures that provide for inclusiveness, transparency and accountability will assure that such measures can only be instituted and maintained if they are in the public interest."

The draft paper says that while statutory marketing measures are retained it is essential that Parliament, through the Minister of Agriculture, be involved in the sanctioning of such measures.

The draft proposes to establish a National Agricultural Marketing Council "so constituted to take into account the needs and objectives of affected parties and obtain their support for the retention of statutory intervention".

Tiger Oats's Hamish

McBain welcomes the transparency in the debate over the new structure. He says that in the past new laws were "forced down your throat".

But he adds that the draft, which appears to have been drafted by "the same guys in the status quo", contains serious flaws.

David Cooper of the Land and Agricultural Policy Centre, an ANC-aligned think tank, says interventionism can be justified only as a last resort, such as in the case of market failure caused by drought.

Nampo's Giel van Zyl says intervention by government in marketing is justified because of the vagaries of SA's climate. But he says that intervention is only justified if it improves the performance of the market.

Agriculture director-general Francois van der Merwe says an inclusive consultative process has been followed in drawing up the draft.

"The Cabinet approved that the draft document could be made available for public comment.

"These commentaries are presently being evaluated before the draft White Paper is presented to Parliament, hopefully by the end of March 1995."



IN THE MIDDLE . . . Janet Love, who chairs the standing committee on agriculture

Delpport on land plan

③ LOUISE COOK

EASTERN Cape Agriculture minister Tertius Delpport warned Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom at the weekend that his land reform programme would cause problems.

Speaking at an agricultural conference on agriculture, Delpport urged Hanekom's department to make the land reform programme "more practical".

Criticising the proposed introduction of a tax on agricultural land, Delpport said tax was not a Land Affairs function.

He said the RDP in the Eastern Cape was being implemented in various ways. These included stabilising commercial farmers and establishing 2 000 small-scale farmers over the next five years.

He warned that the RDP could become a "self-devouring monster" if it did not extend beyond welfare. This was why many previous job creation projects had failed. *BD 27/2/95*

"The RDP should rather focus on creating economic growth — jobs will follow automatically".

Gauteng Agriculture minister John Mavuso said reform envisaged in his province would apply to agricultural as well as peri-urban and urban land.

Western Cape agricultural minister Lample Fick said certain RDP goals had already been achieved without any RDP funds having been involved, including training and the upgrading of irrigation.

Public rights against private rights — that is the big issue of a project designed to control the quality of vital groundwater. Science Writer Anita Allen reports.

Who should own Earth's blood?

3 JAN 28/1995

The abolition of private rights on groundwater is one of the options being considered in a national project initiated by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. The aim of the venture is to develop a groundwater quality management strategy for South Africa and the big issue is public rights against private rights, says John Wates of project consultants Wates, Meiring and Bernard.

Inappropriate

The question is whether this system is working. The recent White Paper on Water Supply and Sanitation Policy is definite on the matter: "It is inappropriate for the country's water law to be based on systems imported from countries with dissimilar climates."

South Africa has well-established systems for the management of surface water quality. However, there is no formal public groundwater quality management strategy.

This is mainly due to the private status of groundwater, which is water in the various kinds of underground reservoirs, called aquifers.

There are two schools of thought on the issue. A traditional private-user point of view says controls on private use are not necessary.

People holding this "business as usual" view are an influential minority, according to Wates.

The second school recognises South Africa does not have much groundwater, but in two-thirds of the country it is the sole source of supply.

In these areas, agriculture, mining, industry, households and informal settlements compete for the resource and in numerous instances across the country it is threatening groundwater sources through overuse and contamination.

The question, therefore, is one of equity in not only the supply of groundwater but also in its allocation.

At present, about 15 percent of the total water consumption in South Africa is from groundwater sources, with 78 percent of this going to irrigation.

Groundwater usage is expected to treble in the next two to three decades, especially as the Government tries to meet its RDP target of 25 litres per person per day within seven years.

This means increasing competition for the resource, and hence the imperative for a national strategy.

Debate

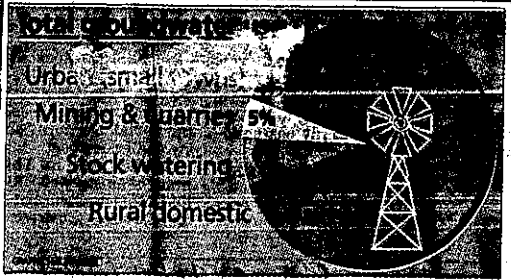
Somewhere in the "public vs private" debate on groundwater is a middle road — developing a national management strategy aimed at sustainable development and based on various systems of regulations, under which enforcement costs would not be prohibitive.

In this exercise, subterranean water would have to be geographically defined and in some cases aquifers would have to be declared a national resource, and no private rights would be allowed.

Already there are groundwater control areas where overuse is suspected.

These include Nyl River, Saldanha and the Crocodile River in the Western Transvaal.

Wates emphasises that the issue of private vs public rights



is not something the project team will decide — ultimately, it is a political decision.

The function of the project team, which involves interested and affected parties throughout the country, is to make recommendations on available options to achieve sustainability.

Given the current situation in South Africa, this implies — and justifies — intervention by the Government in order to ensure equitable distribution and adequate protection.

The question is: what is the right level of intervention?

Again there are two schools of thought. The protectionist view holds that all groundwater must

be protected, whatever it takes.

The second acknowledges that managing groundwater allows for limited degradation. This recognises that degradation is a given in order for development

Water security for all... South Africans in 220 towns and smaller settlements around the country are partially or entirely dependent on groundwater.

dividual aquifers. The next exercise would be to determine the sources of pollution.

All these kinds of studies have been under way for many years in South Africa and the information will be drawn into the current national project as it progresses and develops.

Wates says that indications are that in overall numbers there is not significant pollution, which does not mean that some aquifers are not polluted. "There are hotspots and on the fringes of these it is impinging on users and neighbours," he says.

An example is Delmas, which is one of 220 towns and settlements in the country which are partially or entirely dependent on groundwater. Two outbreaks of typhoid have occurred in the Delmas area, the most recent being earlier this month.

Typhoid

Delmas municipality draws its water from an important dolomitic aquifer and purifies the water before distributing it.

It is not this water which is polluted. The outbreaks of typhoid were extremely localised and the source of the pollution is unlikely to be far away.

It may turn out to be cases of people polluting their own boreholes or a nearby river, due to a lack of sanitation.

Public participation is crucial to the groundwater project process, Wates emphasises.

"In the end it has got to be workable and the people affected by any decisions are the only ones who can determine this," he says. "This has a potential effect on communities, industry, mining and agriculture and for that reason they must play a strong role in the project."

Wates can be contacted at telephone (011) 315-0316 or on fax 315-0317.

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POLITICS Mediation services and tr

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R315-m for land reform

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■ GROWTH PROJECTS Minister

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By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

Ms Sue Lund of the Ministry of Land Affairs said yesterday.

oncerns
ansas:

EFFECTIVE land reform begins in earnest today when Minister of Land Affairs Mr Derek Hanekom is expected to announce nine pilot projects at the cost of R315 million.

"Having chosen one district a province in which to run the programme we're going to see whether in fact its a viable mechanism.

DB

The land reform projects — one in each province and for which R35 million in grants a region has been budgeted — will be run over the next three years and is aimed, primarily, at giving black people access to land and at bringing equity to the land market.

We've put in a monitoring and evaluation system which will lock into place as soon as the money gets allocated (to the areas).

We will be able to test where the difficulties are and where the problems are," Lund said.

National level

in
persons.
34.

If the mechanism proves to be viable it will be upscaled to national level — probably within a year.

DB

Priorities needs

The pilot projects are a test by which the Ministry of Land Affairs would be able to see how people on the ground would prioritise their needs and how they would go about using the grants that have been made available.

The essence of the reform projects is the involvement of the local communities in the envisaged projects.

Communities will employ their own agents and will be assisted by a district pilot manager.

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Mediation services and training will be put into place in the areas that had been selected to support the initiative.

This, according to Lund, will bring the Government and civil society closer together in defining the needs and process of land reform and redistribution.

Land redistribution begins

SA's land redistribution programme was launched yesterday with R316m from foreign donors and reconstruction and development programme (RDP) funds.

The Land Affairs Department said the amount would be payable over three years and each province would receive R35m. Details would be announced today by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo.

Land Affairs has a business plan for its redistribution programme which will monitor aspects, including cash flow, funding and links between land reform and RDP guidelines. It sets out monitoring procedures and gives women a greater role in decision-making on land redistribution.

Land steering committees in each province would be appointed and a district pilot office and district land reform forum would be established. These structures

3
LOUISE COOK

would represent all stakeholders in pilot projects. The department said it would make state land available where possible.

About R167m would be spent during this financial year. Of this R123m would come from RDP funds and R45m would be made up of grants from foreign donors.

Land affairs spokesman Helmut Schlenter said government aimed to redistribute at least 30% of private and state agricultural land over the next five years. Restitution cases would be dealt with by the proposed land claims court and would fall outside the redistributed land scheme.

Land Affairs pilot project manager responsible for the redistribution programme, Sue Lund, said the process would enable local communities to decide how they wanted to use their land.

20/2/75

Dam for Umvoti River planned

(3) 30 3/3/95
 voti and Hlimbitwa Rivers.

GOVERNMENT was planning to build a new dam on the Umvoti River in Kwa-Zulu/Natal to provide irrigation for hundreds of small farmers, as well as water for domestic and industrial use on the province's north coast, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal announced yesterday.

The most likely dam site was in the Glendale area at the confluence of the Um-

Estimated cost of the 33-million cubic metre reservoir, he said, was R180m at 1995 prices.

Asmal told delegates to the national forestry policy conference at Kempton Park that an environmental impact study would be carried out and local communities fully consulted on

the siting of the dam.

No resettlement would be necessary. This contrasted with dam and conservation schemes in the past when thousands of people were "kicked out" of their homes and tribal areas, said Asmal.

Water Affairs spokesman Thys Badenhorst said the dam would provide wa-

ter to existing dry-land cane growers in the Glendale area, while an extra 2 000ha would come under irrigation, allowing up to 200 more small farmers on the land.

Water would also be supplied to domestic and industrial consumers in the Stanger and Groutville areas, which had for many

years been subject to water restrictions because of drought. Sugar mills and the Stanger pulp and paper mill would benefit.

If the project got the go-ahead, construction would start in the latter part of next year and be completed in 1998, Badenhorst said.

If the public participation process resulted in rejection, an alternative site upriver in the Greytown area would be considered.

Water: Private or public?

JOHANNESBURG. - The removal of private rights on groundwater is being considered in a national project initiated by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

The aim of the project is to develop a groundwater quality management strategy for South Africa and the big

③ CT 11/3/95
issue is public versus private rights, says Mr John Wates, a hydrology engineer at Wates, Meiring and Barnard, the consultants for the project.

South African law currently states that water under private property is privately owned, but experts are suggesting that this be reconsidered.

Viljoen instigates Zairian farming deal

③ ARLG 1/3/95
Weekend Argus Foreign Service

JOHANNESBURG. — General Constand Viljoen this week signed a memorandum of understanding with top government officials in Zaire to study the possibilities of settling farmers there.

"We said we would report the findings to the Government of National Unity," said the Freedom Front leader on his return from Kinshasa last night.

General Viljoen and his delegation also had talks with President Mobutu Sese Seko and Prime Minister Kengo wa Dongo.

The delegation included Free State Agricultural Union president Piet Gous and his Transvaal counterpart Dries Bruwer as well as Viljoen's twin brother Professor Braam Viljoen.

General Viljoen said that because of the economic and political instability of Zaire a settlement scheme would require government-to-government backing.

"We shall need the (South African) government's approval. Then, we'll be ready to send a technical team to get to know things in detail before we reach a final decision."

General Viljoen described Zaire as battling along with democracy, but with no clear pattern.

"The fact that the tax collection system has completely failed shows the public service has collapsed."

"Somewhere, development will have to start and the point at which this should begin is agriculture."

He added that it would not be up to South Africans to solve Zaire's political problems.

"But, if we can do our part, then surely they can do the rest."

General Viljoen added that, in spite of the positive reaction his team received from officials and the general public in Zaire, history could repeat itself in a country which has had a turbulent history since independence in 1960.

"We shall have to pay special attention to the safety of our people. We could never say that what happened in the past could not happen again. We shall have to have some evacuation plan," he said, adding this also applied to agricultural settlement plans in Mozambique.

R35m land project in south-west Cape

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

A R35.1-MILLION land reform programme in the south-western Cape was launched yesterday by the Minister of Land Affairs, Mr Derek Hanekom, and the Minister without Portfolio, Mr Jay Naidoo.

The programme was part of a R315m pilot redistribution project involving dispossessed and landless communities in the nine provinces, Mr Hanekom said.

The three-year pilot programme, launched by Mr Hanekom and RDP minister Mr Naidoo in Cape Town, was the beginning of a broader process of redistributing land to those in the direst need, or who had been

denied access by former racist policies.

State land, including at least 16 state forests and more than 2 500ha of agricultural land, would now come under the control of the communities in the area. CT 113/95

Mr Hanekom said at a press conference: "The beneficiary groups will identify their own needs, develop their own plans and make decisions on the allocation of funds within the department's policy framework."

Similar R35.1m grants have been made for eight other pilot land reform projects in the other eight provinces.

The Western Cape project will be in the district consisting of the southern heights and coastal

plain from Swellendam and Wit-sand to the west of Nature's Valley and the eastern boundary of the province.

The magisterial districts include Knysna, George, Mossel Bay, Riversdale and Heidelberg and the eastern part of Swellendam.

In addition to the magisterial districts, the area has 50 identifiable towns and settlements

The ministry said R10.2m of the grant was a "land acquisition assistance grant". A further R18.8m was a "homestead basic needs grant" for beneficiaries of the land grant, with a maximum of R12 500 per household, to cover such items as water supply, sanitation, internal roads and homestead land.

NEWS Horrifying footage shows carnage at alleged police ambush

Death videos in court

Sowetan 1/3/95

By Josias Charle

TWO video tapes of the scene of the massacre in Nelspruit where four unarmed would-be robbers were shot dead by police in 1992, were shown in the Eugene de Kock trial in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday.

The horrifying video footage form part of the state's case against De Kock, who has pleaded not guilty to 121 charges ranging from murder to fraud.

Mr Justice Willem van der Merwe and two assessors watched in silence as the videos were shown, while both counsels, reporters and the public

watched with keen concentration.

Covering a wide area on the KaNyamazane Road, scores of spent cartridges as well as live rounds, shattered glass and chunks of human flesh could be clearly seen.

The burnt-out shell of the minibus also bore testimony to the number of bullets allegedly fired by police with R5 automatic rifles during the ambush on March 26 1992.

The driver apparently died instantly as he was still in an upright position.

Two other charred bodies were in the back of the minibus. They were huddled against each other on the floor. Two AK-47 rifles were placed under the bodies.

The fourth body was blown clear of the minibus and was covered by a red blanket next to the vehicle.

Those who died in the inferno were Mr Khona Gabela, Mr Lawrence Jacey Nyalende, Mr Glenack Masilo Mama and Mr Oscar Nxolisi Ntshaota.

Testimony has already been heard that the men were victims of a police trap. State witness Captain Leon Brand of the Nelspruit detective branch yesterday told the court that over 250 rounds were fired at the four.

He arrived on the scene of the shooting at about 5am that day and saw the minibus burnt to a shell.

He immediately took charge of the investigation of the case.

Land reform test

(3) Sowetan 1/3/95

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

NINE pilot land reform projects, one in each province, were announced yesterday by Minister of Land Affairs Mr Derek Hanekom.

The programme is built around five core facilitation grants of R35 090 000 in each province:

The grants for the land acquisition are set at a maximum of R12 500 a household. The programme is expected to run until 1997.

Benefiting areas include Northern Transvaal: Potgietersrus, Pietersburg, Waterberg, Soutpansberg, Bochum, Seshego and Mokerong.

Gauteng's Rust de Winter area, the

land earmarked includes parts of the Wonderboom, Cullinan and Bronkhorstspuit magisterial districts and towns like Hammanskraal, Pienaarsrivier, Refilwe, Cullinan and Rayton, Rethabiseng and Bronkhorstspuit.

Free State: Bloemfontein, Dewetsdorp, Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo, Excelsior and Brandfort.

In KwaZulu-Natal: Estcourt, Wembezi, Winterton, Colenso and Weenen. Rural and freehold settlements include Cornfields, Thembalihle, Draycourt, Grannhoek and Loskop.

Western Cape: Knysna George, Mossel Bay, Revierdale and Heidelberg, and the eastern part of Swellendam.



Miss Soweto Rethabile Matsoko visits Lebonada House for abandoned and abused children in Soweto to present a cheque for R10 000 from the co-sponsors of the Miss SA Pageant.

Free

State land credit plan in pipeline (3)

BD 1/3/95
DREW FORREST

GOVERNMENT is planning a state credit guarantee scheme to give hundreds of thousands of landless people in rural areas access to the land market.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday the aim was to mobilise private sector loan finance for land acquisition in cases where would-be purchasers had no collateral. The scheme was similar in conception to the mortgage indemnity scheme planned for the housing sector.

His Ministry was also preparing legislation providing for the community trust ownership of land, so that land held under customary tenure could be used as collateral. A draft Bill would be published "within months". The matter was urgent because some communities returning to land from which they had been removed wanted communal tenure and title.

Financial institutions were unwilling to recognise customary property systems because they did not allow for foreclosures. "The idea is a property regime which the banks will accept."

The credit scheme had been referred to the Rural Financial Services Commission for endorsement. Negotiations with financial institutions would follow.

The scheme will play an important role in government's land redistribution programme, under which communities will play an active part in land acquisition.

● See Page 3

Govt flexible on land redistribution

LAND Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom yesterday said government was not "married" to the target of redistributing 30% of land in five years, as mooted in the reconstruction and development programme (RDP).

"But land reform is important and needs to be tackled head on," he said. Hanekom and Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo announced details of various land redistribution pilot programmes throughout the country. Hanekom said expropriation in restitution cases would remain an option of last resort.

Poverty-stricken people and communities with "the most dire land needs" had been selected as beneficiaries. He said the pilot programme was merely the start of a broader process of redistribution.

The areas selected for the first redistribution projects included Potgietersrus, Pietersburg, Tarkastad, Queenstown, Cacadu and Cathcart.

Areas around Bloemfontein, Thaba Nchu, Dewetsdorp, Botshabelo and Brandfort had been selected in the Free State. In the Northern Cape, Warrenton, Barclay West, Kuruman and Postmasburg had been chosen.

In Kwazulu/Natal, targeted areas would include Estcourt, Colenso and Weenen. In the Western Cape the areas are Knysna, George, Mossel Bay, Riverdale, Heidelberg and Swellendam. At least 16 state forests ad-

LOUISE COOK

ministered by the Water Affairs and Forestry Department, were included in this region.

Gauteng's pilot districts were the right-wing areas of Wonderboom, Cullinan and Bronkhorstpruit.

Redistribution areas in the Northwest and in the Eastern Transvaal had not yet been identified.

Naidoo said a task team involving the Land Affairs, Public Works, Water, Forestry and Agriculture departments had been appointed to probe the development and investment aspects of redistribution. He said land reform was a "major tool" in redressing skewed land ownership and the various pilot projects were a "cog in the wheel" of the overall programme.

He also said money, over and above the R316m currently allocated, would be put into the programme from RDP funds. This would happen only after the 1995/96 financial year.

Naidoo said the administrative costs of land reform were likely to drop in time — these had been capped at 15% of the overall bill.

"Success will depend largely on the provision of adequate and appropriate support services, including agricultural extension, housing, infrastructural development, conservation and regional planning."

● Comment: Page 14

Cape farmers assured state will not expropriate land ⁽³⁾

ARG 2/3/95

Political Correspondent

WESTERN Cape Agriculture Minister Lampie Fick has assured Southern Cape farmers that pilot land reform projects in their area are not the forerunner of unilateral expropriations by the state.

This message will be driven home on Saturday when Mr Fick, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Jay Naidoo, the minister in charge of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, will visit the Southern Cape to speak to communities involved.

Mr Fick said his ministry had received scores of telephone calls from worried farmers who had not fully understood Mr Hanekom's announcement that the Southern Cape had been identified as a pilot district for the land reform programme.

He said at a press conference yesterday that he was not aware of any plans for expropriation at this stage.

"This has to do with using existing state land, and existing rural settlements. People have no grounds for anxiety."

While the Western Cape government had "some doubts" about the proposed administrative and management details of the scheme — a risk that it felt would involve unnecessary red tape, and the danger of central government "trespassing on the terrain of the provinces" — Mr Fick said he was excited.

The programme would include upgrading existing land rights, improving rural infrastructure and services, and establishing and supporting new small farmers.

Farmers get R7,5m aid

DROUGHT-affected farmers in Northwest had been allocated R7,5m for relief, Northwest premier Popo Molefe said in the provincial legislature in Mmabatho yesterday.

3/3/95 BD

The provinces would soon receive their allocations from the R19m set aside for drought relief by the central government. (3)

6/3/95
Farmers to go on great trek

③ TIM COHEN

CAPE TOWN — SA and Mozambique yesterday agreed in principle on a Freedom Front initiative for about 1 000 Afrikaner farmers to embark on a "new great trek" to farm in Mozambique. These farmers will also assist agricultural development in the war-torn country.

Involved in the agreement were President Nelson Mandela and Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, and the presidents of the Free State and Transvaal agricultural unions, Piet Gouws and Dries Bruwer.

Sapa reports that the two agricultural unions proposed to "canvass a number of experienced SA farmers to become involved in a joint effort to strengthen the agricultural sector and related industries in Mozambique".

Chissano said his government was proud of the agricultural co-operation initiative, which would benefit not only the two countries but the whole region.

He complimented Bruwer and Freedom Front MP Pieter Mulder for brokering the deal.



Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, second from right, was met at Jan Smuts Airport yesterday by Gauteng education minister Mary Metcalf, left, and health minister Amos Masendo. He returns home today. Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

No regrets over apology to Mozambique

CAPE TOWN — Speaker Frene Ginwala's apology to Mozambique was not made on behalf of the ANC, but on behalf of the democratically elected representatives of the people of SA, leader of the National Assembly Trevor Manuel said yesterday.

He said the NP's call for Ginwala's resignation was "devoid of any substance".

Manuel said Ginwala's apology for the "terrible crimes" committed by fellow South Africans against Mozambique was supported by the majority of South Africans inside and outside Parliament.

"Her apology is based on a fundamental morality, a concept alien to the NP," Manuel said.

The NP was incapable of

understanding the wrongs which it had perpetrated against the people of SA and the region.

"The NP remains a collection of the selfish who lack the faculties to remorse so necessary for reconciliation."

Manuel said the National Assembly would stand by the Speaker. — Sapa.

Dam for Umvoti River planned

(3) 30 3/3/95
 voti and Hlimbitwa Rivers.

Estimated cost of the 33-million cubic metre reservoir, he said, was R180m at 1995 prices.

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the siting of the dam.

No resettlement would be necessary. This contrasted with dam and conservation schemes in the past when thousands of people were "kicked out" of their homes and tribal areas, said Asmal.

Water Affairs spokesman Thys Badenhorst said the dam would provide wa-

ter to existing dry-land cane growers in the Glendale area, while an extra 2 000ha would come under irrigation, allowing up to 200 more small farmers on the land.

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years been subject to water restrictions because of drought. Sugar mills and the Stanger pulp and paper mill would benefit.

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If the public participation process resulted in rejection, an alternative site upriver in the Greytown area would be considered.

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The most likely dam site was in the Glendale area at the confluence of the Um-

Industry falls under spotlight on affirmative action and RDP projects

Conference will address issues of race, gender and economic status.

Present structured discussion of the industry requires an enormous shift to the way in which decisions are made. The conference will tackle the crucial issue of encouraging black participation in the mainstream economy... a vision of the RDP. The issues of capacity building and participation in contracts will also be discussed," a statement

Speakers include Leon Matlakhane, Minister of Transport and Public Works (Western Cape), and the Balfour, co-chairman of the Cape Town 2004 Olympic Bid Committee, and Delisiwe

Dludlu of the Black Management Forum.

Coinciding with the conference will be the official launch of Sabtaco (Western Cape). Its mission is to develop and promote technical skills within disadvantaged communities, to enable effective use of technology for sustainable social and economic development at the national, regional and local levels, and to build capacity and empower (economically and socially) communities as well as individuals with technical skills.

Sabtaco's principles include affirmative action, a sustainable built environment, sustainable socio-economic development, capacity building and community empowerment.

The objectives are:

- To promote theory and practice of the technical disciplines in disadvantaged communities;
- To address the unique problems, needs and aspirations of disadvantaged professionals;
- To exchange knowledge and experience between the relevant disciplines;
- To promote technical education and training;
- To conduct research, assist and co-operate with statutory or other bodies;
- To ensure affirmative action and empowerment is implemented; and
- To actively influence interventions to redress past and present inequities.

ARG 29/10/94

LAND TAX

Kraai vs Derek

FM 3/3/95

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk strongly opposes proposals for an agricultural land tax, as made by Derek Hanekom. Van Niekerk says it is time to remove the obfuscation created by statements on land redistribution and the use of land tax as a means to that end. Van Niekerk says he is merely stating the case for agriculture, as Hanekom has stated the case for his own constituency, Land Affairs.

And he says he sees no reason to clear his views with Hanekom as Hanekom did not clear his policy statements regarding a land tax with him.

"My aim is not to create a division in the Cabinet. But it is unacceptable that agriculture be encouraged to deregulate the socialist marketing schemes while the sector is threatened with socialist measures such as a land tax, which is supposed to force down the price of land and make more available for redistribution. Only economic growth will enable more people to reap the fruits of the land of milk and honey."

Van Niekerk says it would be "counter-productive" to impose further tax on such a vital economic sector, adding that his criticism of the land tax proposal is based on good economic grounds.

"It is detrimental to upset this sector, which has a central role in rural development, by means of ill-considered pronouncements. The time has come for realism regarding what is feasible and what is not. The time for unilateral actions is past."

Meanwhile, Hanekom should be breathing a sigh of relief that his *idée fixe* has been taken out of his hands by Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg and given to the Katz Commission to investigate and produce recommendations. The tax has prompted anger from the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and minimal support from the National African Farmers' Union. Though Hanekom has always said he is merely suggesting a land tax, handing it over to the Katz Commission could save him from getting more egg on his face.

Commission chairman Michael Katz says he will soon form a subcommittee to deal with land tax and invite representations from interested parties.

That should take little time. The views of the main players are already well known and the issues clear cut. You don't have to be an expert in rural development to realise the tax is a nonstarter and Hanekom's motivation for it badly thought out.

He believes it would help improve agricultural productivity, bring more land on to the market and increase the number of black commercial farmers. It would also, he adds, provide funds for local government to improve services and facilities such as roads and schools. He has no intention of using money raised by the tax to buy land

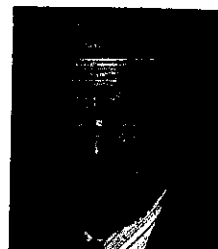
for black farmers.

The first of his motives gets a tart retort from the SAAU. Given the high costs involved in farming, says president Boet Fourie, "any farmer who is not already using his largest single asset, his land, optimally will lose it." Proof of the efficiency of local agriculture, he adds, is that SA is one of few countries that is a net exporter of agricultural products — as well as "the agricultural giant in Africa."

The SAAU also says that even at 1%, let



Van Niekerk



Hanekom

alone the 2% mentioned by Hanekom as possible, it would render farming, where the average return on owners' equity is less than 5%, just not worthwhile.

That is no doubt why the National African Farmers' Union, formed in 1991 with a membership of 40 000 undifferentiated land occupiers, believes a land tax should be considered only as an option for unworked land — "to discourage land speculation," says GM Stephen Mokoene. ■

Learning to walk

FM 3/3/95

The success of government's R315m land reform pilot programme, launched this week, could open the way for the creation of a significant new grouping of small commercial farmers.

One district in each of the nine provinces has been identified for inclusion in the pilot project, unveiled in Cape Town by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Minister in charge of the RDP Jay Naidoo.

The areas identified total just 450 000 ha of which only 238 ha is privately owned. The size of some of the properties in the

districts was not known. The southern Cape district includes about 16 State-owned forests. The beneficiary communities will decide what to do with the forests.

Provincial land reform steering committees will oversee the implementation of the plan, involving a detailed process of identifying beneficiaries and helping them with training and development of the land.

Funding of R270m over the next three years will come from the RDP programme, with another R45m from international donors. A "basic needs" grant of R12 500 per household will be available to beneficiary communities.

Hanekom says the challenge facing government is to achieve an equitable and fair land distribution, to promote the secure, effective and sustainable use of land. The pilot plan is the first step. He says the project's success depends on adequate, appropriate support services such as agricultural extension, housing, infrastructural development, conservation and planning.

There is no immediate target in terms of time or quantity for the redistribution process. The objective is to give access to those who need land and are eager to work it. Hanekom says the programme could have a significant effect on food production.

Programme manager Susan Lund says most commercial land in the identified districts is privately owned. Some farmers want to sell their properties while others are keen to participate in the project and make a contribution to its success. ■

Agriculture opened to wide debate

③

ST 5/3/95
(BT)

THE old guard this week squared up to reformers intent on deregulating South Africa's agricultural markets.

The old House of Assembly played host to two camps, one favouring statutory intervention in agricultural marketing, the other saying intervention should be minimal.

The former camp included the Maize Board, the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo), the Citrus Board, the Wheat Board and the SA Agricultural Union.

The reformists included the Sunnyside Group, Tiger Oats, academics from the faculty of agriculture at the University of Pretoria, the Free Market Foundation and the SA Futures Exchange (Safex).

The parties were giving evidence to a special sitting of the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture.

Chaired by ANC MP Janet Love, the hearing followed numerous requests from concerned parties that the old guard was frustrating attempts to deregulate agriculture.

A particular concern was that representations from reformists were ignored and that proposed new legislation would perpetuate

By KEVIN DAVIE

the old order.

Safex's John Wixley said there should be a prohibition on statutory powers such as those which allowed price fixing.

UP professor Jan Groenewald questioned whether there was a need for a marketing Act. He said government intervention was justified only to protect the farmer from unfair foreign competition, monopolies, droughts and to create a strategic maize reserve.

The Land and Agricultural Policy Centre's Brendan Bayley said an enabling Act was needed to manage the process of deregulation.

The LAPC says producer interests have been paramount "so that agricultural marketing policy instruments have transferred hundreds of millions of rands from consumers to producers".

The LAPC proposes that where marketing councils are established, they should be more representative.

Nampo criticises the present marketing system for being over-bureaucratic.

"When one considers that there have, until recently, been 22 boards in operation,

one can form some idea of the size of the bureaucracy involved.

"Apart from the high cost of this bureaucracy, the decision-making process is tremendously tedious and the timescale is simply too lengthy for any acceptable degree of operational efficiency."

Nampo proposes intervention be allowed if it improves the functioning of markets. It says the government's mandate should be explicitly defined and should at all times be justified by the constitution.

Gerrit Basson, National Marketing Council chairman, said a discussion "determining document" would be published next week. The document is intended to form the basis of the new marketing Act.

The SAAU said in a tabled submission that much research and debate, involving all affected parties, had resulted in the consensus reached by the Agricultural Marketing Policy Evaluation Committee (Ampec) on the principles of a sound future marketing policy.

These principles included intervention to level the playing field between the many relatively small individual primary producers and large traders, processors and retailers.

A Great Trek to Mozambique

CP 5/3/95

3

MORE than 1 000 South African farmers are expected to join a trek to Mozambique initiated by Freedom Front leader General Constand Viljoen.

Two weeks ago a group of farmers from the Free State and Transvaal, led by Viljoen, travelled to Mozambique to discuss with the local authorities a possible agreement for a joint promotion of agricultural cooperation between South Africa and Mozambique.

The farmers met with President Joaquim Chissano, who welcomed the initiative.

Chissano said with democracy now established in Mozambique, it would be fruitful to encourage regional cooperation with South Africa, which has experience and knowhow in the agricultural field.

As part of Mozambique's Economic Recovery Programme the number of state farms has been reduced from 150 to

General Constand Viljoen has called up the boere for a new trek – to the fertile farmlands of Mozambique. They have been welcomed by President Joachim Chissano, eager to rebuild his war-ravaged country. ABDUL CARIMO reports.

109 and the land area farmed by the state is down to 90 000 hectares from 150 000 hectares.

But technically all land still belongs to the state, and is leased out to foreign investors at a nominal fee.

The South African farmers are expected to primarily concentrate their activities in Mozambique's three southern provinces – Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane.

Virgilio Ferrao, director of the Land Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, said many South African, Portuguese and former Rhod-

esian (Zimbabwean) farmers had land properties in Mozambique – and with the establishment of democracy they were now requesting to have their farms back.

After independence, angry and embittered, most of the country's 200 000 white settlers had left, destroying all they could of the economy – largely based on plantation.

According to the Investment Promotion Centre and the Ministry of Agriculture, since the end of the 16-year civil war a great number of South African private investors have been farming in

southern Mozambique, many in partnership with Mozambicans.

South Africans are especially active in the Moamba, Bilene and Ressa-no Garcia districts and some have been authorised by the government to have property.

But complaints have been raised by the rural community – especially in Moamba district, where there have been reports of shootings over land disputes.

People who had fled the country because of the war wanted their farms on their return – but white South African farmers had taken over after "negotiations" with authorities, especially in the areas along the Limpopo river.

Some claim the South Africans "paid off" local authorities to persuade Mozambicans to look for land elsewhere.

According to the Land Law currently in force, the land spots left by farmers who were absent for a certain period were redistributed to local community farmers.

The Land Law was conceived through a centralised Marxist economy – which is now being reformulated.

Question

For the government the question is: How to explain this to the current land holders, or how to stop land disputes.

However, farmers in the Moamba and Boane districts recognise that the joint co-operation between Mozambique and South Africa towards agriculture development is a positive initiative.

They say the long war and severe droughts have badly damaged the country's ability to produce all the food it needs.

Unleaded fuel spells minor changes for SA drivers

Stan 6/3/95

The expected decision to introduce lead-free petrol in South Africa later this year will have short-term disadvantages but major long-term benefits.

The advantages are that engines designed to run on unleaded fuel are more efficient and last longer.

Disadvantages include the higher cost of lead-free petrol, the cost of the distribution and the cost of modifying cars to run on lead-free petrol.

About 90% of cars on South African roads will be able to use unleaded petrol. Of these 65% will be able to use the new fuel without any major adjustments and a further 10% with minor adjustments, mainly to the ignition systems, at a cost of between R50 and R100.

In older pre-1980 cars, there may be a problem with valve seat recession, but in most cases this can be overcome by filling the car with leaded fuel once out of every four fillings.

WHAT does the advent of lead-free petrol mean to the South African motorist? Many of the answers were provided at a forum on the subject in Durban last week organised by the SA Petroleum Industry Association and the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Vincent Gilbey reports

Leaded petrol will still be available for about 15 years after introduction of unleaded for use in such machines as outboard motors and lawnmowers. Diesel vehicles will not be affected in any way.

Only 10% of cars will be incompatible with unleaded petrol and it is inadvisable for very high performance and modified vehicles to be run on unleaded if they were designed for leaded.

Fuel additives are not recommended in today's sophisticated engines as they could disturb the fuel balance.

About 80% of all new cars manufactured in the world today are based on unleaded engine technology, resulting in South African motor companies having to convert unleaded engine technology to leaded engine technology for local manufacture.

This has the effect of increasing the cost of manufacture, while being unable to use the latest technology to increase the efficiency of engines.

For this reason exports are restricted as well. Economies of scale are important if the car manufacturers are to remain

competitive and offer cars to their customers at an affordable price. The availability of unleaded fuel will result in savings in production costs.

As a signatory to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, it is essential that South Africa comes into line with other world markets by introducing unleaded petrol to compete internationally.

Production of lead-free fuel is more expensive, but initially it is planned to make lead-free petrol available at a subsidised price below that of leaded petrol to encourage its use.

If lead-free petrol is not introduced now, the overall cost in a few years time will be far higher.

When lead-free petrol is introduced, fuel octane ratings will be revised and only two grades of petrol will be sold inland and at the coast: 95 unleaded and 97 leaded at the coast and 91 unleaded and 93 leaded inland.

The current low standard-

grade distribution system will be used for lead-free.

Lead-free petrol is being introduced for technological reasons to allow South Africa to lock into world technology and is not being introduced for environmental reasons — but it will pave the way towards a cleaner environment.

At this stage three-way catalytic converters, as used overseas in Europe, the US and Canada, will not be mandatory and hopefully by the time South Africa decides that a system is required to further reduce exhaust emissions, less expensive technology will be available.

Some manufacturers, though, can be expected to supply their cars with "cats" while those who want can have a converter fitted at an estimated cost of between R2 000 and R3 000.

It is not expected that there will be any major change in fuel efficiency of existing cars but the new generation of vehicle engines are known to be more fuel-

efficient. However, where cars have to be de-tuned to run on unleaded petrol, a 2% decrease in fuel efficiency may occur.

Engines built to unleaded specifications have a longer life than leaded engines and require lower maintenance. For example spark plugs need only to be replaced at greater intervals and exhaust systems will last longer.

In 1991 a co-ordinating committee was established to develop a programme to look into the practicalities of introducing unleaded fuel. The committee included representatives of both fuel and motor industries and other interested parties. The plan was for unleaded petrol to be available from October.

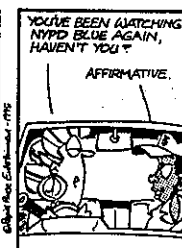
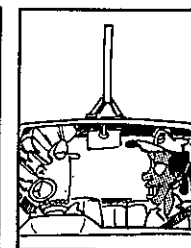
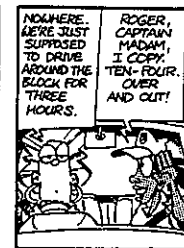
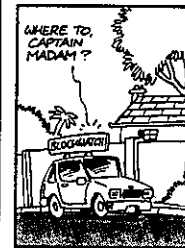
All the implications of the pos-

sible introduction of unleaded petrol are being assessed and the Government is expected to take a decision soon.

Should the Government decide to go ahead, however, both the oil and motor industries have already geared themselves up for the introduction of unleaded petrol. They believe the move is a *fait accompli*.

MADAM & EVE

By S Francis, H Dugmore & Ricc



Search for land court candidates

(3) (2) (1) SW 7/3/95

■ STAFF REPORTER

The search is on for a president of the Land Claims Court and two additional judges for this tribunal, Chief Justice M M Corbett has announced.

The Judicial Service Commission has called for the nomination of candidates by April 7. Nominees will be interviewed in public by the commission, which will then submit its recommendations to President Mandela.

Judges of the Land Claims Court will adjudicate complicated disputes arising from claims for restoration of land by those who were dispossessed under apartheid laws.

Cases which cannot be settled through mediation by the Land Claims Commission will come before this court.

Any candidate nominated must be a South African citizen and he or she must be either:

■ A judge of the Supreme Court, or a qualified advocate or attorney who has practised as such for at least 10 years, or who has lectured law at a university for an equivalent period.

■ A person "who by reason of his or her training and experience" has expertise in relation to land matters and laws.

NEWS

No decision on residential costs

Bulk water users face 8% price rise

BY PAULA FRAY

The price of water supplied by Rand Water to its bulk consumers — municipalities and mines — will increase by 8% next month, it was announced on Monday.

However, local authorities have yet to meet to decide whether to increase residential water prices immediately or absorb the increases until the start of the new financial year in July.

The price of purified water has been increased from 101,81c/kl to 109,95c/kl.

In a statement yesterday, Rand Water said an average family of five in its area of supply used about 1 000 litres of water a day for domestic purposes.

It said the full effect of the increased tariff — if passed on to end consumers without any changes by municipalities — would increase the monthly water bill of the average household by R2,44, assuming an average monthly consumption of 30kl.

Municipalities will them-

MINES and municipalities will have to pay about 8c/kl more for their water, but residential users could get a reprieve

selves decide on the tariffs they will charge individual end consumers after considering their respective budgets," said Rand Water.

Midrand metropolitan sub-structure chief executive officer Henry Lubbe told The Star that as soon as the MSS received official notification of the increase, the matter would be referred to the council for a decision.

Boksburg Transitional Local Council chief executive Blitz Coetzee said that as several townships were still on a service boycott, the low levels of payments might make it difficult for council to absorb the increases.

But it would remain a council decision whether to increase residents' tariffs.

The acting head of the

Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council's metropolitan service delivery, Dr Emile Horak, said he could not comment on the increases as the council had not yet received official notification.

Rand Water chief executive Vincent Bath said the bulk water tariff increase had been kept well below the inflation rate for the fourth successive year as a result of general containment of working costs.

The new tariff covered the rising loan finance costs incurred by the implementation of Rand Water's 1992 scheme to supply an additional 1 200 million litres of water a day between September 1996 and July 2003.

The project will underpin Reconstruction and Development Programme efforts to supply water to an additional 5-million people in parts of the Gauteng, North-West, Free State and Eastern Transvaal provinces.

The tariff increase also covers a future Water Affairs and Forestry Department levy increase of 4c/kl to finance South Africa's portion of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

Call for Wits suspensions moratorium

EDUCATION REPORTER

The administration of the University of the Witwatersrand should declare a moratorium on the expulsion or suspension of students and workers accused of taking two senior university officials hostage, the Wits Black Staff Forum said yesterday.

The WBSF also called on the administration to expand the ad hoc council committee to make it more representative, and for all parties to try and resolve the crisis so that the Forum for Further Accelerated and Comprehensive Transformation (Fact) could meet.

A WBSF spokesman said the organisation had called for a moratorium because it believed that "neither workers, students or the administration can claim to have a clear mind".

He said the administration had been guilty of not co-operating with students, while on the other hand the actions of demonstrators had not always been acceptable.

The WBSF membership is made up of senior black administrators, black academics and black support services staff. The group has applied for 10 of its members to represent their interests on fact.

③ STAR 8/3/95

STAR 8/3/95

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Gauteng sees urban role for small farmers

GAUTENG's conservation and agriculture department's proposed stocktaking of agricultural land around major urban centres could check uncontrolled urban sprawl and see the establishment of small farms around cities, sources said yesterday.

They said the proposed stocktaking was expected to cause a major shake-up.

The exercise involved an investigation by a consortium of Carletonville, Vereeniging, parts of Roodepoort, Westonaria, parts of Randfontien, Kagiso, Vanderbijlpark and Johannesburg south of the R13.

A final report, PWV sub-regional agricultural desk study, which would serve as a pointer to future urban and agricultural development, would be handed to Gauteng agriculture minister John Mavuso on Friday, they said.

Sources said the matter

LOUISE COOK

was "sensitive" because the inventory was aimed at "irreversibly changing the phenomenon of urban sprawl" and "changing the debate on industrial versus agricultural development".

Motivation for compiling the report was the lack of a comprehensive small farmer settlement programme, the possibility of certain land being considered for purposes other than housing, and the possibility of solving housing crises through the settlement of small farmers.

The report identified the link between agricultural, urban and rural development as a critical issue in the province.

Sources in provincial agriculture said Gauteng had lost 123 000ha of prime agricultural land to industrial development between 1981 and 1991.

Project starts to aid small farmers

③
Sowetan
9/3/95

By Isaac Moledi

THE first farm project by the Small Farmer Development Corporation got off the ground in the Western Cape when the corporation bought 1 348 hectares of farm land.

The SFDC, founded last year by the private sector to assist with the establishment of viable small farmers from previously disenfranchised communities, bought the land in the Ceres district.

The project aims to create jobs and develop the entrepreneurship for about 200 small farmer families, who the SFDC hopes are to be accommodated on the farm land.

Chairman Mr David Gant said the SFDC bought the Verlorenvlei farm for R2,45 million.

He said the farm would be developed to its full potential so that a constructive contribution can be made to the land reform process, create job opportunities and to develop entrepreneurship.

The corporation's managing director Mr Hannes le Roux said the SFDC wanted to help the beneficiaries of the project into the mainstream of commercial agriculture by means of sound management practices and access to structured support service.

"We estimate Verlorenvlei would eventually be able to accommodate some 200 participating small farmer families resulting in further development such as housing, schools and clinics," said Le Roux.

Millions for drought relief, aid to farmers

③ CT 9/3/95

PRETORIA: The Department of Agriculture announced yesterday it had earmarked R31 million for drought relief in eight provinces.

The remainder of a total of R34m set aside by the government for drought relief would be used for existing programmes, including help to farmers suffering from fire damage, emergency drinking water schemes and disaster drought assistance to stock farmers.

Director-general Mr Frans van der Merwe said the amounts, based on applications received from the provincial agriculture departments, were less than had been asked for.

He said R8m had been earmarked for the Northern Transvaal, R5m for the North-West, R5m for the Eastern Transvaal, R4,8m for kwaZulu/Natal, R4m for the Eastern Cape, R3m for the Free State, R1m for the Northern Cape and R200 000 for Gauteng.

The money would be spent on job creation in the agricultural sector, aid to communal stock farmers and a one-off subsidy to small-scale irrigation farmers.

The need for further assistance requested by organised agriculture was under investigation.

"This will be dealt with after the end of the summer rain season and in the new financial year," Dr Van der Merwe said. — Sapa

Black farmers' union ducks deregulation

(BT) ST 12/3/95

By CIARAN RYAN

INSTEAD of supporting deregulation, both the black National African Farmers Union and the National Consumer Union are scrambling for a share of compulsory agricultural levies, worth millions of rands.

The pro-deregulation lobby says it is struggling to win support in its campaign for voluntary agricultural levies and vastly reduced statutory marketing powers.

Nafu, which claims to represent 40 000 black farmers, got 13,7% of the levy income received by the South African Agricultural Union in 1994/5. SAAU says it is also looking at ways to cut the South African National Consumer Union in on the levies it receives from farmers.

"We tried to get Nafu to support our position on voluntary levies, but it appears the SAAU got to them first," says Nils Dittmer of the Sunnyside Group, a vocal supporter of agricultural deregulation.

"This surely compromises their credibility as a group claiming to represent the best interests of their members. They are hardly likely to support voluntary levies when they are the recipient of compulsory levies from the SAAU. I also question whether Nafu represents a fraction of the members it claims. Unless you have voluntary paid-up members, it is hard

to determine." (4) (3)

Sancu has also come out in favour of compulsory levies, provided "all interested parties" have a hand in determining the need for and the size of levies. It wants to see the spoils shared among consumer bodies, producers and other interested parties.

Compulsory levies lie at the heart of the agricultural deregulation debate. Without them, producer bodies will have to seek voluntary paid-up memberships and there is a fear that farmers who have been forced to pay compulsory levies for decades will opt out of the system.

Mr Dittmer says these levies benefit neither the producer nor the consumer, only the middle men.

Boers in little trek to find rain

By CHRIS BARRON

NOT long ago, the only dreams your average white South African farmer had about Africa north of the Limpopo were nightmares.

According to the gospel peddled by the National Party government and religiously adhered to by the farming community which kept it in power, black Africa was a no-man's-land to be avoided at all costs.

Then came April last year, a black government not quite as interested in cosying up to white farmers and talk of land taxes, land redistribution, new labour laws, unions for farm workers and minimum wages — and overtures from the likes of Gabon, the Congo, Zaire, Uganda and Mozambique, who wanted — of all things — South African (ie white) farmers.

Suddenly, black Africa was not such a bad place anymore.

In fact, says Hans Herbst, a cattle farmer in the heart of the Northern Transvaal where feelings about Africa used to run particularly high, if you're looking for paradise, look no further than Africa.

As he heads into his 60s, Uganda is the place.

Before the end of the year, he will lead a party of eight or nine fellow Northern Transvaal farmers and their families to put down roots in Idi Amin's old stamping ground.

He's not worried about the reception he and his former champions of a white Africa will receive.

"If you are nice to them, they will be nice to you," he says. "They are a friendly nation. In November, they're having their first democratic elections.

"They have an inflation rate of four percent at the moment, it's one of the most stable countries in Africa and economically the brightest.



HEADING NORTH ... Hans Herbst and wife Fransie will build a new life in Uganda
Picture: CHRISTINE NESBITT

"And, you know, 80 percent of Ugandans are Christians. That means a lot to us."

So, of course, does the fact that, with a reliable 500mm to 3 000mm of rain every year, Uganda is one of the most fertile countries on earth.

Politics, insists Mr Herbst, has nothing to do with his decision to trek from the land of his birth.

"If it was about politics, I would have gone to Paraguay," he says. "If I was trying to get away from a black government here, why would I go to live under a black government somewhere else?"

"The only reason is rain. I can tell you that, if we had more rain here, I would never leave this country," he says, coming close to an emotional choke at the prospect.

Only too pleased to have Mr Herbst and his friends, of course, is the Ugandan government.

"We particularly want South African farmers," says Ugandan High Commissioner in Pretoria James Mugume. "They understand African conditions, they have a good nose for agriculture and they want to make money. This is what we want."

The interest shown by the farmers

in Uganda has surprised him.

"When you hear how conservative they are, one would have assumed they would be reluctant to go into black African countries," he says.

Which is probably what President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique thought, too, before signing his agreement on agricultural co-operation with President Nelson Mandela recently and hearing that there were already 1 000 South African farmers lined up to take advantage of it.

Free State Agricultural Union president and Freedom Front senator Dr Piet Gouws says: "We know the potential of that country, and it's absolutely tremendous."

South African farmers are already doing business in Mozambique, but Dr Gouws says the first farmers to settle there in terms of the latest government agreement should be in place by August.

"We are coming in as entrepreneurs trying to make a profit," he says. "We're not pretending to be great humanitarians, we will go there as capitalists."

He said the farms would be leased from the government, initially for 50 years, not owned by the farmers.

200 000 | 75 500

NOTE: THE 1986 TAX INCLUE

Water Affairs, up ⁽²⁾

15/3/95 Political Correspondent ⁽³⁾

FORESTRY
THE water affairs and forestry budget will be R936 billion, a 32 per cent increase, and includes R361 million for community water supply and sanitation. *ARL*

200 000

NOTE: THE 1986 TAX INCLUD

Water Affairs up ⁽³⁾

15/3/95

Political Correspondent

THE water affairs and forestry budget will be R936 billion, a 32 per cent increase, and includes R361 million for community water supply and sanitation. ARG

- (2) whether the above file reference is the file reference to Operation Anchor; if not, to what is it a file reference; if so, what was the purpose of the said operation;
- (3) whether this operation was undertaken with the knowledge and approval of the former State Security Council; if so, what are the relevant details?

N159E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) I have been advised that an amount of R228 000 was approved for a project code-named Anchor.
- (b) (i) and (ii) The funds were used for the purchase of equipment required for the project during the 1986/87 financial year.
- (2) The file reference mentioned was the file reference use for project Anchor. The project had as its aim the mobilisation of the people of Namibia to accept and support the South Africa initiatives in the territory and undermined those of the liberation forces.
- (3) Yes. The project was undertaken with the knowledge and approval of the former State Security Council.

The project was conducted in accordance with the delegation made by the State Security Council and confirmed by the Council in its letter with reference 22/5/B dated 2 July 1986.

(3) HANSARD 15/3/95
Land for African farmers in Province of the Western Cape

*22. Mr C M MAKWETU asked the Minister of Land Affairs:

Whether any land is available for African farmers in the Province of the Western Cape; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N160E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

Yes; with the abolition of the racist laws of the apartheid government all legal limitations on the acquisition of land by black farmers came

to an end. All prospective farmers, including African farmers, can therefore freely acquire land in the Western Cape.

Because of the discrimination of the past it is necessary for the State to provide financial support to prospective farmers to acquire State land or private land on a willing buyer, willing seller basis, especially to the poorest who depend on land for their survival.

Government recently announced the Knysna, George, Mossel Bay, Riversdale and Heidelberg districts as well as the eastern sections of the Swellendam district as Pilot Land Reform Areas for the implementation of the first phase of a comprehensive land reform programme for the Western Cape. Apart from privately owned land which may be acquired with state assistance, there is also close on 2 500 hectares of State Land within these districts that might be available for settlement.

Post Office: sale of customer information to companies/organisations

*23. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

- (1) Whether the Post Office sells customer information to companies and/or organisations; if so, what amount does the Post Office charge per person or customer;
- (2) whether Post Office customers whose particulars are provided to companies and/or organisations receive any discount on their post office box rental or other services; if not, why not; if so, what amount;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N162E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

- (1) No.
- (2) No. The application forms that have been in use up to now have allowed applicants to refuse that their particulars be furnished to other organisations.
- (3) No.

Post Office: persons refuse to sign form

*24. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

- (1) Whether any persons making use of post office boxes or street delivery services have refused to sign the form "application for/confirmation of mail delivery service" giving permission to the Post Office to furnish their details to any outside organisations; if so, how many as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) whether any of these persons have had their post office box applications or rental agreements cancelled as a result of such refusal; if so, why;
- (3) whether the Post Office has ever supplied the particulars of any persons to any organisations without the express signed permission of the persons whose particulars were so supplied; if so, (a) in how many cases and (b) what action was taken as a result;
- (4) whether the Post Office uses any procedure to establish whether the organisations to which it sells or supplies the particulars provided on the above-mentioned form are organisations "that already have your name and address particulars" before it supplies the particulars of any specific person to such organisation; if so, how?

N161E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

- (1) Yes. The form was distributed to private post office box renters only and clients were not obliged to sign the form, to furnish personal particulars or to agree to the provision of their address particulars to outside organisations. In those instances where clients were reluctant to complete certain portions of the application form, it was merely deleted.
- (a) As the signing of the relevant form was not obligatory and clients could thus refuse that their personal particulars be furnished to other organisations, no statistics of such refusals were kept. However, from forms that have been received it appears that

approximately 1% of the more than 1,6 million private box renters have refused to fill in the forms.

- (2) No.
- (3) No.
- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (4) No specific procedure exists, but organisations that require that address particulars be verified, must provide their own address lists for this purpose. Since 1961 the Post Office may, in terms of the private post office box rental agreement, furnish the names and addresses of renters to organisations on condition that they already have the names and addresses at their disposal.

Address particulars of persons are freely available in, *inter alia*, telephone directories and voter's lists or obtainable from municipalities and large mail advertising firms who specialise in provision of address lists.

Pharmaceutical matters: review of policy concluded

*25. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to Question No 2 on 19 October 1994, the review of the policy on pharmaceutical matters has been concluded; if not, when will it be concluded; if so, what were the findings;
- (2) (a) who are or were the members of the review panel involved and (b) what specific matters were or are being reviewed?

N163E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

- (1) No, the Medicine Policy Committee has made recommendations regarding the various pharmaceutical aspects. At present I am in consultation with the most important role players regarding these recommendations. After this I should be in a position to make a decision in this regard.

Less restriction in agriculture urged

BD 6/3/95
PRESSURE is mounting on government to free up agricultural markets and scrap legislation aimed at regulating them.

Pretoria University academics, food company Tiger Oats and the Land and Agriculture Policy Centre rejected at the weekend the redrafting of the 1968 Agricultural Marketing Act, calling for it to be scrapped.

The Agricultural Marketing Council completed work on a new Agricultural Marketing Act recently, following criticism two years ago by the Kassier Committee, appointed by government to probe agricultural marketing. The draft Bill is due to be released for comment this week before it goes before Parliament next month. A new Act could be in place by August, council spokesman Gerhard Basson said.

But Pretoria University agricultural economist Jan Groenewald said the new act would "perpetuate discrimination, nepotism, monopolies and political patronage". He called for the draft to be referred to Nedlac before it went to Parliament.

Agricultural economics department dean Johan van Zyl said legislation to regulate marketing had

(3)
"harmed consumers and the poor".

Van Zyl called for equal opportunities through tariffs and "visible support" through access to land, credit-extension services and streamlined co-operatives.

Tiger Oats executive director Hamish McBain said there was no need for an Agricultural Marketing Act.

"But should there be legislation, any marketing scheme should be based on consultation and negotiation as opposed to the present situation where producers can force through decisions that may not be in the overall interest."

Premier group economist David Frost agreed. He accused government of a lack of consultation in redrafting the Act.

Agricultural markets division spokesman John Wixley said "government intervention in the market should be directed at the small-scale farmer and those disadvantaged in the past".

The Land and Agriculture Policy Centre said existing legislation provided undue power for the Agriculture Minister.

Farmers' union rejects land plan

(3)
LOUISE COOK

THE Transvaal Agriculture Union has rejected government's land pilot programme, describing it as "structured poverty".

In terms of the programme, details of which were announced last week, the Land Affairs Department has allocated R316m to displaced communities to redistribute 450 000ha of land nationally. Of that total, about 238ha is privately owned.

TAU vice-president Willie Lewies said land redistribution was forced on communities by the state. "It does not reflect reality based on farmers' experience in dealing with local communities."

Research had shown that jobs, schools and available water had rated higher with local communities than the acquisition of land.

DP Land Affairs spokesman Errol Moorcroft said his party supported the programme's basic provisions. *BD 6/3/95*

However, it might be necessary to allocate land on an individual basis since communal systems of agriculture in Africa had proved to be "disastrously ineffective and destructive to resources", he said.

The SA Agriculture Union was not available for comment.

Worker involvement is 'necessary' in SA mines

BD 6/3/95
RENEE GRAWITZKY

WORKER participation agreements in SA merely paid lip service to the concept as opposed to allowing for true worker involvement in how work was being done.

Speaking at a seminar on workplace change through worker participation, Mark Anstey, director of the Industrial Relations Unit in Port Elizabeth, said worker participation agreements carried no real weight but merely carried "statements of intent".

He said the reason for the success of the German system was its detailed and compulsory nature.

He said future SA labour legislation should have a far more powerful thrust on workplace forums and co-determination.

Gauteng NUM co-ordinator Archie Palane said worker participatory schemes implemented to improve productivity and relationships without involving workers from the outset were doomed.

One of the reasons for the failure of profit sharing

schemes was the lack of worker involvement in the calculation of production targets and the processing of information.

He said that at Gencor's Grootvlei mine the parties were close to signing an agreement intended to improve productivity for the continued viability of the mine.

This agreement would provide for:

- Building work teams;
- Taking discipline enforcement out of the hands of management;
- The appointment of full-time health and safety stewards;
- Work teams to decide which workers should go on skills training and adult basic education; and
- Production target monitors to be appointed and trained jointly by the union and management on all aspects relating to production, and their involvement in the formulation of production targets.

White farmers warned against selling land at inflated prices

POLITICAL STAFF

LAND AFFAIRS Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said yesterday there had been cases recently of white farmers being bought out for more than the market price of their properties.

Later a Land Affairs source said criminal charges could follow if it was found valuers put a higher than market value on the farms, and civil claims against the farmers concerned could also follow.

The source said there were 2 000 valuers in the country but only a fraction of these had been used in valuing properties.

Speaking during a mini-debate in the National Assembly, Mr

Hanekom said he was pursuing the matter with Public Works Minister Mr Jeff Radebe and a report would be issued in due course.

"We dare not, and will not, allow unscrupulous persons to abuse the system, and take away scarce resources from the primary beneficiaries of our land reform programme," he said.

Speaking during the mini-debate on restitution for land taken under the Group Areas Act, PAC MP Mrs Patricia de Lille asked why state land was being sold to foreigners while there was a shortage of land. She called for a moratorium on the sale of land to foreigners

Replying, the minister said he

could understand the resentment in the eyes of many South Africans who did not have access to land when they saw foreigners come to South Africa — especially when they had a questionable past.

Mr Hanekom also disclosed yesterday that some 80 communities had applied for financial aid, in terms of the Provision of Certain Land for Settlement Act.

He was replying to a question from Senator E K Moorcroft.

He said that negotiations had been completed with 10 communities and negotiations with the others had not yet progressed to a stage where financial assistance could be granted.

The 10 communities which



FOREIGNERS: Mrs Patricia de Lille asked why they can buy land'

had been accommodated consisted of about 2 192 families. Seven communities were getting additional RDP funds for basic infrastructure.

Warning of legal action on land sales

CAPE TOWN — Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday there had been cases recently in which white farmers had been bought out "for more than the market price of their properties".

A Land Affairs source said criminal charges could follow if it was found valuers put a higher than market value on the farms. Civil claims against the farmers could also follow.

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Political Staff

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Replying to De Lille the Minister said he could understand the resentment "in the eyes of many South Africans, who do not have access to land when they see foreigners come to South Africa — especially when they have a questionable past".

The Minister also disclosed yesterday that about 80 communities had applied for financial aid in terms of the Provision of Certain Land for Settlement Act.

He said if necessary the matter would be contacted yesterday afternoon.

Proposal on school exams

CAPE TOWN — School examinations should be administered by provincial education authorities through representative boards, the Independent Examinations Monitoring Committee says.

A report given to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu yesterday provides for a uniform national curriculum for external examinations from 1997.

The SA Certification Council and the independent examinations monitoring committee should become components of the a new SA qualifications authority envisaged by the White Paper on education.

There was a need for a policy on safekeeping of papers and scripts, and appointment of invigilators.

The key recommendation is that the dates for publication of results be established provincially, and that results be released within a week before the end of the year. — Sapa.

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BUDGET

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Water for 1-m people

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17/3/95

■ MAKING MOVE Mandela opens first of 12 presidential water projects:

PLANS are under way to bring clean water to one million people in rural communities, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the Moretele water scheme near Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria, Mandela said the provision of basic services such as clean water, with the cooperation of different sectors of the community, was the essence of reconstruction and development.

The Moretele scheme is the first of 12 presidential projects chosen for the Government's community water supply and sanitation programme.

Water Affairs Minister Mr Kader Asmal said the scheme would cost R57 million and the first supply of water would be available by September this

year. The project is due to be completed by September 1996.

It entails the laying of 1 000km of pipeline which will carry water to 150 000 people in the Moretele in North-West.

Mandela congratulated the Moretele community for their commitment to pay for the services they will receive through the scheme. This was an example other communities should follow, he said.

Asmal emphasised that communities had to make at least a minimum payment for the operating and maintenance costs of their water schemes.

Minister Without Portfolio Mr Jay Naidoo said more than 12 million people in South Africa still did not have access to clean drinking water, and 21 million were without adequate sanitation. — Sapa.

NEWS

1-m rural people to get clean water – Mandela ³

Plans are under way to bring clean water to 1-million people in rural communities, President Mandela said yesterday.

He was opening the Moretele water scheme near Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria.

Mandela said the provision of basic services such as clean water with the co-operation of different sectors of the community was the essence of reconstruction and development.

The Moretele scheme is the first of 12 presidential projects chosen for the Government's community water supply and sanitation programme.

It entails the laying of 1 000km

of pipeline which will carry water to 150 000 people in the Moretele region of North-West province.

Mandela congratulated the Moretele community for their commitment to pay for the services they would receive through the scheme.

He urged the thousands who attended the ceremony to register for the November local government elections.

"Make sure you can vote so that your local government is elected by you and not somebody else," he said.

Fully representative local structures would give communi-

ties the opportunity to take their fate into their own hands.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal said the scheme would cost R57-million and the first water would be available by September this year. The project is due to be completed by September next year.

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said more than 12-million people in South Africa still did not have access to clean drinking water, and 21-million were without adequate sanitation.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme was aimed at putting an end to this "disgusting figure". — Sapa.

SDW 17/3/95

Clean water soon for rural communities

3

CT 17/3/95

PRETORIA: Plans were under way to bring clean water to one million people in rural communities, President Nelson Mandela announced yesterday.

He was opening the Moretele water scheme near Hammanskraal north of here.

He said the provision of basic services such as clean water, with the co-operation of different sectors of the community, was at the

heart of reconstruction and development.

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LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

Shock for consumers

(3) FM 17/3/95

Drought-stricken Gauteng has been dealt a double body blow with the announcement that water supplies from the massive Lesotho Highlands Water Project have been delayed by a year with a concomitant cost overrun of R1,6bn.

Department of Water Affairs officials confirm the huge cost overrun has pushed final estimates for Phase 1A of the project to R9,8bn — for which consumers are liable.

Originally timed for January 1997, the first water will now only enter the Vaal River system by January, 1998.

The main reason for the delay and the cost overrun are geological problems in the transfer tunnel linking the Katse dam in Lesotho with the Muela tailpond dam just outside the SA border. This will necessitate costly lining and waterproofing of the tunnel surface. Until this is complete, no water can flow to SA.

The R1,6bn cost increase (in 1998 terms) consists of R600m engineering costs and about R1bn in financing charges on the extended period over which the loans now have to run. These will initially have to be repaid by means of municipal water consumer levies and later by ordinary tariffs, as Water Affairs must, over the next 15-20 years, repay the local and international financiers of the scheme.

Now, officials are busy factoring in the impact of the R1,6bn cost hike on water tariffs. From April 1, Rand Water's levy on its municipal consumers will be increased from 18c/kilolitre to 22c/kilolitre.

But, says Water Affairs managing engineer, international projects, Willie Croucamp, original projections of a 34c/kilolitre levy by 1997 will now have to be revised upwards to make provision for escalating costs.

"To date, consumers have contributed, through levy payments, about R660m to the scheme. But they will eventually have to pay for the full cost of SA's contribution to the Highlands Project and we are talking big numbers here."

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal has already warned consumers served by Rand Water to prepare themselves for possible water restrictions as the levels of the Vaal and Sterkfontein dams now stand at 14% (55% a year ago) and 73%, (74% a year ago) respectively. With the summer rainfall season almost at a close, some regions have received as little as 20% of their mean average rainfall. And, confirms water specialist Desmond Midgley, "with the frequency and severity of the droughts hitting SA increasing all the time, total available water runoff figures for SA are steadily

dropping."

Against this rather sombre background, the news of the Highlands Project delay is not very well timed, says independent consulting engineer Basil Lund.

"The best one could wish for at this stage is that the R3,7bn Phase 1B of the project could be postponed, so that cheaper alternatives could be developed. But this seems unlikely, as SA is contractually bound to Lesotho for the completion of phases 1A and 1B. This, unfortunately, is the result of the decision to proceed with the costly scheme during sanctions years — while cheaper alternatives are now available."

Lund says, based on current projections,



SA has less water than previously thought. "We must hold thumbs that the Vaal and Sterkfontein dams will see us through."

Croucamp says the infrastructural work for Phase 1B (which will include the 958m m³ Mohale Dam, a 30 km inter-connecting tunnel and a 6,4 km weir and transfer tunnel), has already commenced. So consumers should also prepare themselves for a further bill of R3,7bn (in 1998 terms), to be repaid over a further 15-20 years (including finance charges over the period), once 1B water (hopefully) starts flowing by about 2003.

Phase 1A is being financed by means of export credits (about R1,5bn); offshore commercial loans (about R1,1bn); concessionary loans of about R60m; R106m from the Commonwealth Development Corp; US\$110m from the World Bank; about R500m from the Development Bank of Southern Africa; water levy payments by

Rand Water consumers (about R1,8bn); and about R4,4bn from the local financial sector (including R800m in the form of WSO1 capital market stock). ■

SHIPPING

Hostilities over

Strong growth in trade between SA and Australia has encouraged shipping line Safmarine to resume its containerised cargo service between the two countries.

The service, previously provided by a Safmarine/Nedlloyd Lines partnership known as Saffocean, ceased nearly 10 years ago due to a hostile trading environment and the refusal by Australian dockworkers to handle SA cargo.

Safmarine divisional director for southern ocean trades, Barry Fourie, says the new service will be a container "slot" charter agreement with the Mediterranean Shipping Company on its weekly sailings.

This means Safmarine will not use its own ships on the route, but exporters will be able to make use of the company's worldwide network of services.

The new service will offer a weekly link between Durban and Cape Town in SA and Fremantle, Sydney and Melbourne in Australia. There will also be a fortnightly call at Adelaide in Australia. A dedicated feeder vessel service for other ports in SA, Namibia and Mozambique will link with Durban and Cape Town.

Inland transportation of containers will cover the southern African region. Bookings, inquiries and documentation in SA will be handled by Safmarine's Saflink.

Fourie says the new service is expected to generate 10 000 containers each way annually. One of Safmarine's prime motivations for resuming the service was an increase of 20% in container trade between the two countries from 1993 to 1994.

Senior trade commissioner at the Australian Trade Commission in Sandton, Anton Mayer, says the value of two-way trade between SA and Australia last year was about R1,8bn, an increase of about 28% over 1993. The current balance of trade is about R260m in Australia's favour.

Mayer believes the prospects for growth of trade in manufactured items are good. SA companies wanting to penetrate the high-growth Asian market, particularly those involved in manufacturing and engineering, now see the advantage of closer ties with Australia, while Australian manufacturers see SA as the obvious conduit for entering the southern African market. ■

R57m water (3)

project launched

BD 17/2/95
LOUISE COOK (123)

GOVERNMENT realised the needs of rural communities, but expected people to pay for scarce resources, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday at the launch of the R57m Moretela water project.

The project would provide drinking water to 150 000 people at Hamanskraal north of Pretoria. It was the first of 12 presidential lead projects which would cost R282m over four years and provide drinking water to 12-million people.

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said communities had to demonstrate a sense of responsibility.

In the short term, the reconstruction and development programme aimed to provide all households with a water supply of 20l-30l a person a day within 200m of their homes. A safe sanitation facility or toilet for each site was also envisioned.

Medium-term goals included the provision of an on-site supply of 50l-60l a person a day and better on-site ablution facilities.

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said government had agreed to 12 water supply projects, but patience was needed in implementing the community water supply and sanitation programme.

Mandela opens huge ³ rural water scheme

Weekend Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — President Mandela has officially opened the R57 million Moretele water scheme in the North West province in what officials termed the first delivery of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

At least 10 000 people from the 17 villages covered by the project gathered in a dusty temporary stadium in the Maubane village to welcome the president, Minister of Water Affairs Kader Asmal, Minister Without Portfolio Jay Naidoo and North West premier Popo Molefe.

Mr Mandela told the crowd that just as a seed needed water to grow, a nation also needed water.

Without water there was no life, no development, he said.

Although water was available in rivers and underground it needed to be harnessed for people to use and for it to be brought where it was needed, which involved many people and the careful use of re-

sources and funds.

He said the Moretele scheme, which would bring clean water to more than 150 000 people, was the first scheme in the presidential project which planned to bring clean water to more than a million people in rural areas of the country as part of the RDP.

He said even to get thus far had taken many people and organisations working towards a common goal.

He called it a unique co-operation between civilians and government and said the Moretele scheme was a partnership between communities and government and proved the role of the community was important.

Mr Mandela said the Moretele community had assumed responsibility for the implementation of the project and they had to recognise the need for people to pay for services.

He said that was all part of operation Masakhane and set an example to be followed all over the country.

ARC 18/3/95
He called on the community to register for the November local government elections.

He said those not registered would not be able to vote in November.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal told a press briefing afterwards that the time between the planning of the project and its implementation had taken nine months.

Professor Asmal said the success of the Moretele project was quick by international standards largely because there was a second tier of government in the North West in the form of the North West Water Authority, which did not exist in other parts of the country.

Minister Jay Naidoo said more than 12 million South Africans were without clean drinking water and 21 million without adequate sanitation.

The RDP wanted to bring an end to that type of situation, he said, and communities had to play their part by paying for basic services.

Queen's help sought in land dispute

③ ST(CM) 19/3/95

By AYESHA ISMAIL

COLOURED farmers from Namaqualand will hand over a memorandum to the British Consul in Cape Town tomorrow for the attention of the Queen, asking her to use her "influence" to help them have their land returned to them.

The farmers say the land was "unjustly" taken away by the British colonial government in the early 1800s.

The land in question is the subject of a Supreme Court application which will be heard in the Cape Supreme Court tomorrow.

The present owners of the land, De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited, will seek a declaratory order confirming their right to sell the land, which consists of four farms, if they so wish.

The Transitional Local Government — previously the Steinkopf Management Board — will oppose the action.

According to De Beers corporate communications manager Glenn Bryant, the four farms were "acquired" by De Beers in the 1940s to "secure" their "right" to diamond deposits.

De Beers decided in August 1993 to dispose of the farms due to the limited life of the deposits, he said.

When the land was advertised the management board opposed the sale.

"Despite numerous requests by us for them to substantiate legal right to ownership of the property, they have failed to do so," said Mr Bryant.

"We have now decided to seek legal clarification of this title."

Boeboe van Wyk, spokesman for the Namaqualand Civic Association to which the farmers belong, said they would have nothing to do with the court action as the Supreme Court did not have the jurisdiction to hear land claims.

"We have aboriginal and indigenous title to the land, but this is not recognised by SA law."

Various communities in Namaqualand have an interest in the four farms and other land in the area.

They say they were unjustly dispossessed of their land by the British colonial government in the early 1800s when "they failed to recognise the indigenous peoples right to land".

And despite a regionally organised demand for land, Namaqualanders find themselves outside the immediate parameters of the Department of Land Affairs land reform programmes.

The new Restitution of Land Rights Act does not make provision for land which communities lost before the cut-off date of 1913. The Namaqualanders will also not benefit from the government's Pilot Land Reform Project as it was not in the district chosen for the Northern Cape.

Mr Van Wyk said after a request to meet with the Queen was denied, the farmers decided to hand over a memorandum "asking her to exercise her influence for the return of the land to the indigenous people given that the land was lost through the British colonisation under Queen Victoria".

would go and register. The tone for residents by table set up for that y, said residents should "right kind of council", services, was chosen. o see that we win the

the residents to help re crime wave gripping residents that the police d come to an end. olicemen. Let us see the to a partnership with

Chris Whittle. **BO22/13/95**
The union wanted to make it clear it did not support the protest march planned for today at the Bloemfontein campus. The letter said students were entitled to representation on the Vista Council as it was constituted now. The council had already been transformed.

A separate statement by the Combined Staff Organisations also condemned today's march. — Sapa.

UK. Simultaneously, workshops and events will be staged throughout Africa. Queen Elizabeth announced her patronage of the festival during her speech at a state banquet in Cape Town on Monday, and President Nelson Mandela has agreed to be a co-patron.

Events featuring African artists will take place in galleries, theatres, cinemas, museums, universities and community centres throughout the UK from

participating in the events in the UK include Kaloana, Ezrom Legae, Paul Stoppford, Kevin Atkinson, William Kentridge, Penny Siopsis, Pat Mautloa and Norman Catherine.

Lucky Dube and The Wonderful, Wonderful Prophets of Da City — who have been a huge hit in Britain — will be among the African musicians.

The sequel to the immensely popular musical "araf" Sheila's to be staged.

New 'Mandela' scholarship announced

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has agreed to lend his name to scholarships for South Africans to attend Magdalene College of the University of Cambridge in England, according to a statement yesterday.

The scholarships, to be known as the Mandela Magdalene College Scholarships, would be awarded to resident South African graduates to pursue post-graduate courses at Cambridge University in subjects relevant to the needs of SA.

Founding benefactor Chris von Christierson — a South African businessman resident in the UK — said the scholarships

would be granted to applicants who could not afford to attend the university.

"I am delighted that what started with an approach last year from Magdalene has resulted in an initiative which will benefit the new SA and to which President Mandela has agreed to lend his name," Christierson said. **(54) BO22/13/95**

The Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, chaired by Prince Charles, had agreed to double-match the income earned on the capital raised for the scholarships. The average annual value of each scholarship was estimated at about R75 000. — Sapa

Limbs thought to be of missing SA man

POLICE in Singapore believe body parts found floating in a harbour in plastic bags last week are those of SAB executive Gerard George Lowe. The Straits Times newspaper reported yesterday.

Lowe, 33, a Johannesburg chemical engineer, arrived in Singapore on March 8. On March 11 his family filed a missing persons report.

through the SA High Commission in Singapore.

Police in Singapore found the man's

parts in a harbour in plastic bags last week.

James apparently checked into a hotel with

Lowe when he arrived in Singapore on March 8.

Lowe has not been seen since. It is not known how

the man met his

Robert Walker, a friend of the Lowe family, said yesterday they had no

idea who James was or how

Lowe might have met him.

Transkei

ity certificates.

It had been impossible to verify the completeness or accuracy of employers' contributions due to missing, inaccurate or incomplete documentation, the report said. These included missing files, conflicting information in files and on computer, and a lack of documented registration numbers or reminders.

On the Workmen's Compensation Fund, the auditor said he was unable to verify the completeness of assessment income "as many instances were found where businesses had not been assessed".

□ From Page 1

Two cases of fraud had been reported to the police, the report said.

Former head of Transkei's military council Bantu Holomisa, who is now Deputy Environment Affairs Minister, said earlier the financial state of the homeland was due to a deliberate political ploy by central government to starve Transkei of funds.

Deputy President FW De Klerk denied this, saying the transfer of money to Transkei was never held up for political reasons. He blamed the heavy losses on mismanagement and corruption.

● Comment: Page 12

Maize **(3) MAIZE BO22/13/95**

□ From Page 1

underestimated. The impact would also spill over to next year — there is usually a lagged time effect."

But MUNGO SOGGOT reports that Nedcor chief economist Dennis Dykes said the latest crop estimate did not come as a surprise and would not affect Nedcor's growth forecast of just over 3% for the year. "The very best crop we could have hoped for would have been 5-million tons."

Although it was not a good idea to downplay the sector's role in the economy, the fruits of improved investor confidence and non-agriculture sector investment would soften the blow. The non-agriculture sector

was performing well, benefiting from a strong uptick in fixed investment.

Dykes said the "fair level" of produce stocks would cut the amount of imports necessary, reducing the impact of the poor maize crop on the balance of payments.

Sapa reports from Bloemfontein that farmers in the northern Free State, who have lost up to 75% of their crops to drought, are now facing a plague of army worms that are spreading at a rate of 100ha a day. Northern Free State agriculture deputy director Piet van Wyk said immediate steps would have to be taken to prevent the plague reaching unmanageable proportions.

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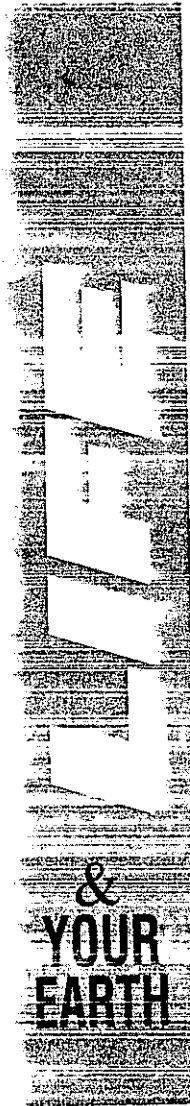
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Water is South Africa's most scarce and most precious natural resource. But in many areas of the country it has been provided free, while in others the poor have effectively subsidised the rich through inequitable tariff schemes. That is set to change, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister KADER ASMAL told Environment Reporter JOHN YELD in a wide-ranging interview on the eve of National Water Week which starts today.

ARC 20/3/95
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Water changes loom

THE "labyrinth" issue of water tariffs and water subsidies in South Africa is being investigated by two committees set up by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

"South Africa is very highly subsidised, and it's an eye-opener to see who gets subsidies and under what conditions," Professor Kader Asmal said.

For example, Kimberley had not paid for any of its water prior to 1970, and at present paid only for water from augmentation schemes developed after that date, he pointed out.

Like most other democratic countries, South Africa had to treat water as an economic commodity and it had to be properly valued, Professor Asmal said.

"The more water you use, the more you must pay for it — that must be the rule, whatever contribution you might be making to the gross national product, because it is a very scarce commodity."

People had an "uncanny" response to rational water tariffs, Professor Asmal said — "they start saving water!"

Resource economics was being taken seriously by his department, and an economist had been seconded from the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Professor Asmal revealed that South Africa was to sign the southern African development community treaty on the co-operative management of the region's common water resources.

This had been decided by the cabinet earlier this year.

Water management had to be developed in relation to units defined by basins (catchments) — "because the basins don't recognise political boundaries," Professor Asmal said.

"For example, the Orange River goes through five provinces and three countries.

"And what we have to appreciate is that planning decisions for economic development and other development must take water resources into account."

South Africa already had bilateral agreements about water resources with Lesotho and Swaziland, and a tentative agreement with Mozambique.

Signing the development community treaty would mean multilateral arrangements with the southern African countries, Professor Asmal said.

Referring to wetlands, he said these threatened ecosystems were at the heart of South Africa's water resources, and existing laws conserving these areas had to be applied.

Wetlands were adequately defined in legislation so as to be able to protect them.

Professor Asmal declined to comment on the issue of possible dune mining at Lake St Lucia, saying it was not the responsibility of his department.

But St Lucia was "one of the jewels of South Africa", he said — "and you cherish jewels, you don't despoil them."

"I must say though that, even before having gone there, I believed St Lucia was one of the world's great protected areas.

"But I never realised until I saw that you can't chisel away at one part or another and hope to maintain the integrity of possibly one of the most beautiful places in the world.

"And it's not just the beauty itself — it's the fact that St Lucia is one of the few remaining systems that merge light, water, sand and vegetation, and we ought to be privileged to have this extraordinary ecosystem."

● Other points made by Professor Asmal in the interview appear in the special Water Week supplement, in all editions of The Argus today.



HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS: South Africa boasts numerous inter-catchment water transfer schemes and dams — like this Kogelberg Dam on the Palmiet River — which supply top-quality drinking water to most urban areas. But for millions of South Africans — including this shack dweller carrying her container on her head — getting water involves a daily, time-consuming trek, and there's no guaranteeing the quantity or quality that will be available.



'Private sector has the answer'

While water and sanitation have been identified as key factors in the RDP, the availability of water and sanitation in urban areas — including the traditionally privileged white areas — cannot be taken for granted.

The problems of providing adequate water and sanitation services have been exacerbated in the past by lack of infrastructure, poor management, politicisation and a natural scarcity of water.

While the scarcity issue can be tackled to a limited extent by planning and controls, the other three factors are more easily addressed. It is in these areas that Water and Sanitation Services South Africa, a company formerly known as Aqua-Gold Services, believes it has a vital role to play. A subsidiary of Lyonnaise Water Southern Africa which, in turn, is a 50/50 venture by French company Lyonnaise des Eaux and Group 5/Everite, Water and Sanitation Services was established as a subsidiary of the Goldstein Group in 1986.

Its major operations include water and sewerage treatment plants in Queenstown, Stutterheim, Sundumbili and Esikhawini. It is now operating at 36 sites and has regional offices in Pinetown, Nelspruit and Queenstown, with its head office in Sandton.

Traditionally, water

and sanitation services in South Africa have fallen under the control of municipalities.

While services to white areas were satisfactory, services to black areas were very poor. The infrastructure in black townships — where there were services — was inadequate and poorly maintained, and because of the perceived illegitimacy of black local authorities, payment for services was affected.

Water and Sanitation Services sees private sector involvement in the supply of services as vital. Not only does the issue of supply become depoliticised but, says managing director Willem Munting, the objective of reducing the cost of water and sewage services can be realised by effective management as well as providing the incentive to residents not to waste water and at the same time encouraging them to understand the benefits of paying for services, thus to contribute to recovery costs in order for a service to remain viable.

Operating under the concept of delegated management, the authority (the municipality) delegates the responsibility of operating and managing a municipal service to a private company while retaining the ownership of assets, the monitoring and control of the services and tariff control.

Star 21/3/95

If we are to reach our goal of water for everyone . . .

Team effort needed

Community involvement is the theme for National Water Week, which runs from March 20 to 26 and incorporates World Water Day on March 22.

We are all affected by the supply of water — an essential factor in health, industry, recreation, ecology. Not only is it essential that all people have a sufficient supply of water but the quality of water available must meet cer-

tain standards.

In May, the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Kadar Asmal said the immediate aim of the Department of Water Affairs was the establishment of "a national water and sanitation programme which will assist in all households securing a clean, safe water supply of 20 to 30 litres a person a day, within a

200m reach and adequate and safe sanitation facilities."

The long-term goal was for every South African to have accessible water and sanitation.

Dream

In a country plagued by drought, irregular rainfall and an inequitable distribution of natural water, this might seem an almost impossible

dream. But if the dream is to be fulfilled it means all users (ranging from those living in rural villages or urban homes to those in agriculture, industry and mining) and all suppliers will have to work together.

With South Africa's steadily growing population (31-million in 1991 and increasing by about 3% a year) and an ever-increasing industrial de-

mand, the challenge may seem daunting.

And not only does the demand for water grow but, with a burgeoning population and rapid industrialisation, the pollution threat increases.

Succeed

This effects not only our rivers and dams but also the groundwater supply.

It is estimated that

more than 11 million people are without access to clean safe water and about 21 million are without hygienic sanitation.

If the Department of Waters Affairs and Forestry is to succeed in its goal of supplying all South Africans with water and sanitation, co-operation, dedication and inspiration are going to be called for from all concerned.

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slow 21/3/95

3 Star 2/3/95

Rural people-potential must not be ignored

"Water remains in critically short supply in most areas of South Africa," says Stewarts & Lloyds marketing manager, Pieter Lötter.

"The reasons for this are many, but one fundamental reason is that most attempts to address the problem have been techno-centric. These attempts did not take full cognisance of the human potential in the rural areas. Operation and maintenance costs were also generally not borne by the users, resulting in the loss of control at local level."

There is a need for a wide range of appropriate, affordable technology in the rural water-supply field. This, he says, is borne out by experience

that indicates that water-supply systems must be affordable and user-managed if they are to be sustainable.

"The range of technical options available should include windmills, handpumps, engine-driven pumps, electrically driven pumps and solar-powered pumps," says Lötter. He adds that the provision of handpumps is still of great importance. S&L is stepping up supplies in anticipation of demand and will have these available at affordable prices.

Stewarts & Lloyds has

been providing equipment to supply water in southern Africa for a century, "and we have decided to become actively involved in the reconstruction and development of the water supply sector, with particular emphasis on sustainable rural water supply."

A range of locally manufactured and imported borehole handpumps is available. The latter conform to UNDP-World Bank and UNICEF specifications. "These pumps", says Lötter, "have been proved extensively throughout the develop-

ing world and are an extremely cost-effective water supply option."

Lötter says South Africa must place the ownership and management of these rural water-supply systems in the hands of the users. Community-level management systems will play an important role in achieving this objective.

"S & L has developed and equipped a mobile unit to travel to the most isolated rural communities to demonstrate the operation and maintenance of pumps and other related products.

"We believe we have developed the correct approach to assisting rural communities with their equipment and training needs."

Getting the message of water across

Cape Town — Water conservation is an urgent necessity in South Africa but is the message getting through to ordinary people?

"No, not yet," says University of Cape Town environmental scientist Guy Preston, who specialises in research about the country's water use and water conservation measures.

Major impact

But Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal and his new-look ministry are set to make a major impact, Dr Preston believes.

"Ultimately, what really matters is that people change their attitudes and behaviour, by installing water conservation devices and not wasting water on their gardens and so on," he said.

"Unfortunately, by and large, they haven't started changing yet, and the person I'm looking to for leadership is Professor Asmal.

Refreshing

"He's shown a willingness to stand up and confront irresponsible bureaucratic behaviour, and his management of his department is the single most refreshing change I've seen in the change-over from the old structures of government.

"We haven't had a minister of water affairs worthy of the title before."

The Department of Water Affairs was "streets ahead" of most other government departments in showing a genuine commitment to change and a new understanding, Dr Preston said.

"For example, these issues of the social costs of water and resource economics are really difficult, but at least the department is aware of them now and is starting to incorporate them into its policies."

□ □ □

While some South Africans enjoy the cleanest, best-quality drinking water in the world, nearly a third of their



Professor Kader Asmal . . . 'first man worthy of the title of Minister of Water Affairs'.

compatriots have either no water supply at all or only a "totally unsatisfactory" supply, says Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal.

There was now a greater appreciation of the importance of water at virtually all levels of government.

"We know that, outside Gauteng, people's first priority is water — this is shown in all the opinion polls and surveys we've carried out," Professor Asmal said.

The water affairs minister, who described himself as a "water nut — the quality and taste of water are very important to me", said

there were really two South Africas.

The first enjoyed access to the best drinking water in the world, while the second either had no water supply or a totally unsatisfactory supply.

"And so, therefore, we're trying to integrate and make South Africa whole, and there is an appreciation of water.

"Now that appreciation must be translated into the allocation of resources, and that means making unpopular choices."

Such choices included restricting the location of industries to areas with adequate water supplies and

possible restrictions on the type of crops that could be grown.

"The planting of trees in commercial afforestation is licensed, but we don't license the planting of crops that consume more water.

"For example, maize is planted in areas where it takes a disproportionate amount of water — much more than trees do — and where it's not economical, but it's totally unregulated.

"We may have to consider that, but that would be an unpopular thing to say."

Water was central to land use and had to be considered when developing land

use policies, Professor Asmal said.

"And I'll be quite frank about it — if agriculture accounts for 60% of water use, then we'll have to tackle the question of how we irrigate fields — whether irrigation is consistent with conservation principles, and especially since there are communities without water near farming areas."

The Government's water conservation campaign would probably have to be underpinned by law, Professor Asmal said. "We'll have to deal with the wasteful use of water." — Own Correspondent.

stan 21/3/95 (3) ~~123~~

Water is South Africa's scarcest natural resource. But in many areas it has been provided free, while in others the poor have subsidised the rich through inequitable tariff schemes. That is set to change, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal told our Cape Town correspondent in an interview on the eve of National Water Week.

Plans outlined for protecting our life-sustaining but carelessly used asset

'More you use, the more you must pay'

3 (195)
Star 21/3/95

Cape Town — The "labyrinth" issue of water tariffs and water subsidies in South Africa is being investigated by two committees set up specially by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

"South Africa is very highly subsidised, and it's an eye-opener to see who gets subsidies and under what conditions," the Minister, Professor Kader Asmal said.

For example, Kimberley had not paid for any of its water

prior to 1970, and at present paid only for water from augmentation schemes developed after that date, he pointed out.

Like most other democratic countries, South Africa had to treat water as an economic commodity and it had to be properly valued, Professor Asmal said.

"The more water you use, the more you must pay for it — that must be the rule because it is a very scarce commodity."

People had an "uncanny" re-

sponse to rational water tariffs, Professor Asmal said — "they start saving water".

Resource economics was being taken seriously by his department, and an economist had been seconded from the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Professor Asmal revealed that South Africa was to sign the Southern African Development Community treaty on the co-operative management of the region's common water resources.

This had been decided by the Cabinet earlier this year.

Water management had to be developed in relation to units defined by basins (catchments) — "because the basins don't recognise political boundaries", Professor Asmal said.

"For example, the Orange River goes through five provinces and three countries."

South Africa already had bilateral agreements about water resources with Lesotho and

Swaziland, and a tentative agreement with Mozambique.

Signing the development community treaty would mean multi-lateral arrangements with the southern African countries, Professor Asmal said.

Referring to wetlands, the minister said these threatened ecosystems were at the heart of South Africa's water resources, and existing laws conserving these areas had to be applied.

Wetlands were adequately de-

finied in legislation to protect them.

Professor Asmal declined to comment on the issue of possible dune mining at Lake St Lucia, saying it was not the responsibility of his department.

But St Lucia was "one of the jewels of South Africa", he said — "and you cherish jewels, you don't despoil them."

"I must say though that, even before having gone there, I believed St Lucia was one of the

world's great protected areas.

"But I never realised until I saw it that you can't chisel away at one part or another and hope to maintain the integrity of possibly one of the most beautiful places in the world."

"And it's not just the beauty itself — it's the fact that St Lucia is one of the few remaining systems that merge light, water, sand and vegetation, and we ought to be very privileged to have this extraordinary ecosystem."

Land tax mooted by Gauteng legislature

Star 21/3/95

3 (320)

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The Gauteng government is considering a tax on agricultural land to encourage the release of property for reform programmes, says MEC for Land and Development Planning Sicelo Shiceka.

Speaking in the legislature yesterday, Shiceka indicated that the land tax could be a significant form of revenue for local or provincial government: "It has worked in many countries in the world, and where it has been applied productivity has actually increased."

Trish Hanekom, head of the standing committee on agriculture and the environment, said there were clear arguments for a land tax:

■ It discouraged speculation in land and pushed land that was not being utilised on to the market. Hanekom pointed out that the mining houses had vast, strategically located land holdings which were not utilised but which cost the mines next to nothing to keep since they were not subject to property rates.

■ A land tax tended to exert a slight downward pressure on

land values. The increased availability of land and lower prices would benefit those groups who had historically been deprived of land ownership rights, Hanekom argued.

■ A land tax tended to encourage more productive use of land and it was very difficult to evade land tax. It was possible that a land tax could be off-set against the income tax payable by farmers.

Far from being a socialist plot, a land tax was intrinsically part of an economy based on private ownership of property, said Hanekom. And it had

worked best in advanced capitalist countries like the US.

She also took issue with the Freedom Front's claim that farmers did not want the tax. It was true to say that the SA Agricultural Union disliked the idea of a land tax — but the SAAU did not even speak for all white farmers, let alone black farmers.

Hanekom said she had held discussions with successful, conservative farmers who supported a land tax because they were tired of competing with wealthy farmers who "parasitised" on the State.

*Union says all farmers can fail (3)
Star 23/3/95*

'Hanekom is just meddling'

The South African Agricultural Union this week accused Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom of trying to use the drought to get more land for the Government for redistribution.

Attacking Hanekom for proposing that drought assistance to farmers be stopped, SAAU president Boet Fourie said in Pretoria that the minister was "meddling" in affairs outside his portfolio.

Hanekom reportedly

said in Grahamstown on Sunday that drought aid led to ineffective farming. Hanekom had also intimated that some maize farmers knew nothing about maize production.

These statements were "outrageous and extremely irresponsible," Fourie said.

"Our view is that Hanekom wants to fasten upon the drought crisis, which is affecting the whole of southern Africa, to get more land for re-

distribution."

Fourie said the minister's claims were nothing but a smokescreen to achieve his own goals.

All farmers, including small farmers, were exposed to drought and crop failures. Such conditions had nothing to do with efficiency, he said.

Fourie said the union viewed Hanekom's statements in a very serious light and it would definitely take the matter further. — Sapa.

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Farmers union not happy about taxes

LAND taxes would inevitably contribute towards the impoverishment of farmers, Transvaal Agricultural Union president Mr Dries Bruwer said yesterday.

Reacting to land tax proposals by Gauteng's MEC for urban and rural planning and development, land reform and environment Mr Sicelo Shiceka, Bruwer said such a tax would also lead to higher food prices because agricultural inputs would be taxed, regardless of farming conditions.

"It would also mean that no money could be generated in droughts when inputs were being taxed although no

crops were being harvested."

Bruwer said Shiceka's comments were "insensitive" and showed "ignorance of the need for a sound financial agricultural sector".

Source of income

Shiceka had said the land tax would be used as a source of income to provincial and local governments. Land would be bought or even expropriated for redistribution to the landless.

In instances where people had been forced off their land because of the apartheid system, the land would be given back to them. — *Sapa*.

March on Shell House

BD 23/3/95
GAVIN STAFFORD

INKATHA Freedom Party supporters could converge on the ANC's Shell House headquarters on Tuesday if Zulu traditional leaders decide today to go ahead with a commemorative march on the first anniversary of a shooting incident in which scores of people were killed last year.

Head of Zulu traditional leaders in Gauteng Prince Ndilawana Mthembu said at a news conference yesterday gatherings would be held in many parts of the country on Tuesday to mark the anniversary.

IFP MP Themba Khoza, who is to assist the traditional leaders, said yesterday he would be acting on behalf of government to ensure the event was "dignified and trouble free".

Possibilities of a stayaway and that the march may be cancelled, or that only a delegation of traditional leaders go to Shell House to lay wreaths in honour of those killed, would be on the traditional leaders meeting's agenda.

● Comment: Page 12

Water scheme tariffs set to rise on increased costs

CAPE TOWN — Government water scheme tariffs would soon rise because of increases in operating and maintenance costs, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kadar Asmal said yesterday at the launch of a national conservation campaign and the National Water Law Review.

Sapa reports he said the overall effect of the new tariffs on consumer tariffs for potable water, however, would be relatively small because raw water costs normally made up less than a fifth of the total tariff.

The increases for water supplied for domestic industrial use in urban areas reflected increases in operating and maintenance costs only, except where additional capital works had come into operation.

One exception was the Vaal River tariff, which would increase by 1,6c/m³ on April 21 because of an increased levy for the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme. A further increase of 4c/m³ would be introduced on October 1, increasing the levy component of the tariff to 22c/m³.

Irrigation water tariffs would increase 10%, except for certain designated socio-economic schemes where increases would be limited to 5%.

The decision to implement only marginal increases was taken because of the effects of drought on the agricultural economy, Asmal said.

Water tariffs from schemes in rural areas would be made individually because of the disparity in tariff policies in different areas in the past.

EDWARD WEST reports that Asmal said current water laws were 40 years old. Water had in the past been allocated on a racial basis, and these laws needed to be reviewed. Water management would become far more difficult because of the demands of the growing population and economy.

A discussion document released yesterday aimed at drawing public comment on water rights said SA's water law was written largely in the interests of commercial agriculture and industry and no consideration was given to existing unwritten customs of the majority of the population regarding water rights.

Confusion regarding the interpretation of water laws and the greed of some riparian owners was leading to contempt for the law and large scale theft and illegal use of water from public streams, which was difficult to control.

Water law, contained primarily in the Water Act of 1956, was also scattered in 33 other Acts and urgent needed to be rationalised. The laws were difficult to understand and difficult to put into practice, while the rights of citizens or public authorities to use water were even more confusing, the document said.

At least a third of SA's population did not have access to adequate water supplies. Asmal said SA simply did not have enough water to go around.

Demand had already exceeded supply in many catchment areas and the quest for new water sources had become "desperately serious".

□ Asmal and KwaZulu/Natal premier Frank Mdlalose have agreed in principle to proceed with plans to build a dam on the Umvoti River for water supply to the North Coast. The R180m, 33-million cubic metre reservoir near Glenmill, scheduled for completion by the end of 1998, would serve the Stanger/Groutville area's industrial and domestic needs and enable 2 000ha of new farm irrigation in the Mapumulu district, a government statement said yesterday.

Hanekom calls for end to drought aid

③ BD 23/3/95

FARMERS have slammed Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom for calling for the abolition of drought relief and saying that the money had encouraged maize cultivation in unsuitable areas.

Reacting to reports of Hanekom's comments, the SA Agriculture Union accused the Minister of trying to exploit farmers so as to be able to redistribute their land. The union warned that it planned "to take the matter further."

SAAU president Boet Fourie tore into the Minister for being "grossly irresponsible" and also accused him of "increasingly interfering in matters that are not the responsibility of his department".

"Mr Hanekom is using the current drought, which is hampering the whole of southern Africa, to gain land for redistribution purposes. His statements about so-called inefficient farmers is a smoke-screen to achieve this goal," Fourie said.

The SAAU warned that the same farmers that Hanekom "wanted to help settle on land" were also victims of droughts. The union said crop failure due to drought had nothing to do with farming skills or efficiency.

In bone dry Northern Transvaal, regional agriculture minister Tienie Burgers said drought relief could not summarily be abolished.

The province was given R8m for drought relief in the 1995/96 Budget and Burgers said the money would be spent according to "RDP guidelines". These called for income generating projects rather than hand-outs.

LOUISE COOK

Small-scale black farmers would be the major beneficiaries.

"Farmers also have to be educated to do better risk management — droughts being part of farming risks," Burgers said.

SA Cane Growers' Association director of agricultural economics Brian Sugden supported drought relief.

"When capable small- and large scale farmers have been virtually put out of business by four years of incessant drought, it is very difficult to argue that the nation should not step in and help get them onto their feet."

He said the association was not looking for handouts but did need loans that could be repaid over an extended period.

"Who would take over farms? It is doubtful that the state would do any better," he said.

Hanekom was not available for comment but Land Affairs spokesman Helmut Schlenter said Hanekom reaffirmed certain principles he had made earlier at a Grasslands Society gathering in Grahamstown.

Schlenter said these included the fact that aid should be directed at "the most vulnerable groups" like children and sick people.

Hanekom said SA was a "drought-prone" country and farmers should grow crops that suited the climate.

Agriculture Department financial assistance director Koos Smit said continuing drought aid, for recipients including stock farmers, would cost the state R97,5m this financial year.

Govt tips on saving water

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE planting of indigenous vegetation heads the government's 10-point list of tips for conserving water.

The Department of Water Affairs guidelines — which form part of the national water conservation campaign launched yesterday — note that indigenous plants are adapted to the country's climate and can survive without being watered daily.

Other tips include repairing broken

water pipes or taps, showering instead of a bathing, covering swimming pools in winter and washing cars using a bucket and sponge rather than a hosepipe.

Water Affairs Minister Prof Kader Asmal said there were three key messages when it came to water as the nation's life-giver:

- We must make every drop count.
- Water is an indivisible national asset.
- Basic water supply and sanitation are everybody's entitlement and responsibility.

(3) (8) CT23/3/95

'SOME FOR ALL, NOT ALL FOR SOME'

3
123

CT23/3/95

Wealthy to pay more for water

THE government, committed to improving the water supply to South Africa's poorest communities despite increasingly scarce resources, has launched a major conservation campaign: **ANTHONY JOHNSON** reports



CONSERVATIONIST: Water Affairs Minister Professor Kader Asmal tackles the water crisis

Historically privileged groups are being asked to pay more and use less water as part of a massive water conservation campaign launched by the government yesterday.

The far-reaching initiative was linked to the announcement of the first review ever of the country's water law, which Water Affairs Minister Prof Kader Asmal warned would "strike at the citadel of power and wealth in South Africa".

Yesterday, World Water Day, the government also announced an increase in water tariffs of 10% on average from next month.

Deputy Director of Water Affairs Mr Rudie du Randt said agricultural water tariffs would go up by 10% in the Western Cape but those for home and industrial usage "could be less in some circumstances."

The conservation campaign will also declare war on wastage. Unaccounted-for water from leaks, unmetered usage and wastage amounts to more than the water sold in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town combined.

Prof Asmal told a media conference yesterday: "The objective of the campaign will be to reduce the usage of water by those privileged enough to have it, so that there is enough to go around for all."

He said the motto of the campaign would be: "Some for all, not all for some," adding that South Africans would have to say, along with Gandhi, "There is enough for the needy but not the greedy."

The minister said that since 12 to 16 million South Africans were without adequate access to even the most basic domestic water supply, there would have to be a "total review" of the nation's water law in the next 12 months.

The constitution required that equity and equality be introduced in the water provision system.

The Water Research Commission had launched an urgent investigation into "the use of the proceeds of the higher tariffs for luxury use to subsidise the provision of water to indigent communities".

A 30-page document entitled *You and your water rights* issued by the Department of Water Affairs, emphasised that constitutional provisions dealing with the right to life, and equality would also affect future water policy.

Inequalities

The document noted that the single largest cause of disease and death among the poor, particularly infants, was water and sanitation related.

It added: "There are clearly de facto inequalities in the area of water supply and where this is contributed to by law, changes will have to be made."

Prof Asmal, who invited all South Africans to participate in a review of the laws governing the management of the water system, said: "Our system of water allocation is based on the practical requirements of the last century."

● See Page 5

City may tow in icebergs

CAPE TOWN could still see icebergs being towed to the city from the Antarctic Circle to help relieve the Western Cape's water crisis.

This emerged at the launch of the national water conservation campaign yesterday when Water Affairs Minister Professor Kader Asmal said that all water-saving schemes that had been previously ditched were once again up for review.

"Everything that was rejected in the past must be brought back on the table and what was declined in the past must be considered once again," he said.

The director-general of Water Affairs, Dr G. Erasmus, said that in a decade or so the dragging of icebergs to South Africa's coastal cities could become "a serious consideration".

Other new sources of water included desalination, re-use and transfers from catchment areas.

'Agriculture 3'

wastes water'

CT 24/3/95

ANTHONY JOHNSON

THERE is 'much wastage' of water by the agricultural sector which uses more than half of South Africa's scarce water resources, according to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Further research would be required into ways to improve the efficiency of agricultural water use in South Africa. Water Affairs Minister Prof Kader Asmal told a press conference this week.

Suggestions and opinions on the new water law should be sent to: The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Private Bag X313, Pretoria 001, or faxed to (012) 326-1780 before 19 May 1995.

Water price rise will hardly affect consumers

■ STAFF REPORTER

The Government's latest increase in the cost of raw water sold to Rand Water for purification will not affect consumers' pockets directly.

Clearing up confusion over two recent water price increases — one in the cost of the Government's tariff for raw (unprocessed) water sold to Rand Water, and the other for water subsequently processed by Rand

Water and then sold to bulk consumers — a Rand Water spokesman said the Government's increase was already included in Rand Water's rise.

Only Rand Water's final 8%

increase to bulk consumers could eventually filter down to householders. If the entire 8% was passed on, the additional cost to an average householder would be less than R3 a month, he said. (13) (3)

SAW 24/3/95

Land redistribution kicks off

31 000ha of 'white' land earmarked for purchase by poor, but enterprising black farmers

ARG 25/3/95

3 287

■ A funding initiative is being launched to help black farmers to purchase farms put up for sale by whites. The initiative is seen as being part of the RDP.

MXOLISI MGXASHE
Weekend Argus Reporter

A MULTI-MILLION rand project has been launched to buy 20 Eastern Cape farms — belonging to whites — covering 31 000 ha, to kickstart the redistribution of land to black farmers.

Consultant from Langa in Cape Town, Mongezi Guma, who helped set up the project, has called for a much larger Marshall Plan-style financial arrangement to help enterprising black commercial farmers buy farms from white farmers as part of the empowerment emphasised in the reconstruction and development programme (RDP).

A former philosophy and theology lecturer at St Augustine's University in North Carolina in the United States, Dr Guma was commenting on the small, medium and micro-enterprises conference being organised by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Durban next Tuesday.

The Marshall Plan was a massive injection of funds from the United States and was designed to reconstruct a devastated western Germany after World War 2.

"For the RDP to have a sig-



Picture: BRENTON GEACH, Weekend Argus.

□ **TIME TO REAP:** Sakhile Development Trust Projects consultant Mongezi Guma. His trust is committed to empowerment of black commercial farmers.

nificant impact on the small, subsistence-level black farmers in the poverty-stricken rural areas, it is necessary that the government intervene in their affairs by creating a financial culture that will enable these farmers to buy farms from white farmers.

"The government and the financial institutions should in-

troduce innovative ways of providing enterprising small farmers with adequate financial and technical assistance because they just cannot afford the big collaterals demanded by the banks," Dr Guma said.

Dr Guma left his teaching job in the United States last year to help found the R75 million Sakhile Development Trust

Projects which is buying 20 farms for black farmers in Elliot and Barkly East in the Eastern Cape. The farms cover about 31 000 ha of land.

Several development and financial institutions, including the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Agric-Africa in Maritzburg, the Independent Development Trust and the Ag-



Picture: OSCAR MTHEMBU.

□ **OLD STYLE:** The Sakhile Trust aims to change the face of old-style African subsistence farming pictured here.

ricultural Credit Board, have already committed themselves to supporting the project.

A feasibility study of the project, financed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, was conducted by Agric-Africa. Evaluation was expected to be concluded this weekend.

The 20 farms will be subdivided into about 40 manageable farms to ensure viability and efficiency.

Sakhile's next step will be to recruit the prospective commercial farmers who need not have any access to capital, as long as they demonstrated visible potential, seriousness and hard work, Dr Guma said.

The management board, drawn from Sakhile's trustees, managers and the farmers, will run some of the farms for purposes of research and parceling to the families of the farm workers who will also have a

reasonable amount of participation in the running of the project.

Dr Guma said Sakhile, conceived in 1992 in response to the removal of apartheid restrictions against black ownership of white farms, would be rearing large and small livestock and produce dairy products and cultivate lucerne, orchards and a wide variety of crops.

The management board, drawn from the board of trustees and the farmers, will run a few of the farms for research and training, and divide others for use by families of farm workers.

"South Africa has a long history of giving to blacks non-viable projects guaranteed to fail. We shouldn't repeat this sad part of our history.

"Sakhile wants to play its modest role in the implementa-

tion of the broader objectives of the RDP by providing support services to some of our people who would otherwise have no other sustainable means of 'making it'.

"We are trying, in our humble way, to make the RDP respond in a positive way to the needs of the people in the poverty-stricken rural areas, so that their dreams do not turn into nightmares.

"And it is my hope that the 2 000 participants in the Tuesday conference in Durban will address the issues raised in Sakhile's objectives, so that the purchase of white-owned farms for the struggling black subsistence farmers becomes part of the broader debate on land acquisition which, I must submit, should reflect the demographics of the country if the RDP is to be taken seriously," Dr Guma said.

Soon water will be for everyone

AS FAR as current water distribution and usage goes, only 12 percent is used for domestic and municipal purposes. The rest goes to farming, industry and mining. What this distribution pattern also means is that between 12 to 16 million people have no access to even the most basic domestic supply.

In terms of development, particularly in the rural areas, the supply of water forms the foundation for the Reconstruction and Development Programme. Without radically altering the current water distribution plan there is little chance of the RDP being successful.

"The call of the new government and of the people is for fairness and equity. This is the demand of the constitution and the basis of the review we are undertaking," said Asmal.

"I know we are touching one of the sources of power and wealth in the country as we look at water rights - but both from a technical and a moral point of view this must be done."

A fundamental review of the current water application policy is being explored.

For the first time in South African history the water law issue is being taken to the public, both in urban and rural areas, to get as broad a representation and input as possible.

The first phase of the South African Water Law Review will ensure that the widest cross-section of South African society uses the opportunity to comment on the law and say what was important to their communities.

Workshops are being planned throughout the country with a particular focus on rural



PROFESSOR KADER ASMAL. "The call of the new government and of the people is for fairness and equity."

BETWEEN eighty and ninety percent of water resources are used by farmers and the business sector. This will all change if current minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Professor Kader Asmal introduces sweeping changes. Political correspondent RAFIG ROHAN reports.

and poor communities.

The next phase will see a monitoring team set up by the minister - going through the public responses. The team will consist of water experts and community representatives and will recommend to the minister what the principles in the new legal water structure should be.

The final phase will see the government making a decision and

the actual drafting of new legislation. A second monitoring team will be set up by experts to consider public response to the draft legislation.

Why is there a need to change the existing water law? The Department gives the following reasons:

■ The water law no longer reflects societal needs - rural people and nature conservation are

not sufficiently protected.

■ The law is outdated - our system of water allocation is based on ancient systems and requirements of the last century.

■ Principles of water law were derived from European countries where the climate, culture and hydrology are different from South Africa.

■ The price and value of water is not reflected in the current law; and

■ Very little consideration was given in the past to customs and unwritten laws of rural communities.

A revamped and more representative water law guarantees the 12 to 16 million people without this basic right will have their plight addressed.

ST 26/7/95 (3)

Hackles rise over land tax plan

By JACOB DLAMINI

THE GAUTENG government is headed for a showdown with mining houses and farmers' organisations over its proposal to introduce a tax on farm land.

The plan, announced by Provincial Land and Development Planning Minister Sicelo Shiceka this week, is intended to encourage the release of land for reform programmes.

It is the first time the ANC has proposed any action against big land-owners.

A total of 41 percent of land in Gauteng is classified agricultural.

The chairman of the standing committee on ag-

riculture, Trish Hanekom, said the proposed tax would discourage speculation and give black farmers access to the agricultural sector.

The tax, which would be calculated according to the value of the land and the income it made, could be a major source of revenue for local councils, she said.

But mining houses say the proposal will serve only to push up their operating costs.

Anglo American spokeswoman Charmane Russell said mining companies were "not in favour of additional taxation".

She said Anglo owned two plots in the East Rand

— Sallies and Ergo. One was being mined while the other was being sold off.

The company also owned land north of Vereeniging, which had been leased out to farmers.

"We do not own any unused land and Anglo's policy is to constantly evaluate land usage," she said.

Chamber of Mines spokesman Llewellyn Kriel said the proposal would add to mining houses' tax burden.

He challenged the claim that mining houses were not paying tax on farm land. "We pay a substantial amount in taxes to the relevant local authorities," he said.

"Existing levels of mining taxation are already too high. The imperfections in the current tax system will only be aggravated by yet more secondary and indirect levies and imposts."

Agricultural organisations also protested against the proposal.

The Freedom Front leader in the Gauteng legislature, Mr Danie Bisschoff, said the tax would render many farmers bankrupt.

"We have just come through a very severe drought and many farmers are saddled with huge debts," he said.

It is very unreasonable to expect them to repay their debts and pay tax at the same time."

The president of the Free State Agricultural Union, Freedom Front senator Piet Gous, said the tax plan would "burden many farmers who are strug-

gling to survive"

"We strongly reject the use of land tax as a source of revenue. The system will take money away from hard-pressed farmers and will mean less jobs in the agricultural sector."

The non-governmental Land and Agricultural Policy Centre said it supported the proposed tax provided the rates were set lower than the productive value of the land.

Centre director David Cooper said: "Land tax is something worth investigating as a system that will introduce rates to the land."

But he said the plan should not add to farmers' tax burden.

"Many farmers have enjoyed government support for a long time. But that's gone and they feel that they are paying more tax as the situation normalises," he said.

Mrs Hanekom dismissed fears that the proposal would lead to conflict.

"There is no reason the proposed tax should cause a collision with any stakeholders," she said.

"We don't want to introduce it in a way that will disrupt the economy."

There were "very sound" reasons for the plan, she said. It would be used to root out tax evaders.

"Many corporations have bought land in a bid to evade tax."

"Most of this land is neither mined nor utilised and they pay sweet nothing for it. This is a more equitable form of taxation. You can hide your profits but you can't hide land," she said.

AMANDA VERMEULEN

Land plan 'aims to end social disparities'

LAND reform was part of a plan to eradicate social disparities, and was not a punitive and unproductive exercise, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday at the launch of the KwaZulu/Natal land reform pilot programme at KwaNobamba in the Estcourt-Weenen district.

"We seek a solution that is generally acceptable to all and approach that elimi-

nates the suspicion, mistrust, and anger that has characterised land disputes over the years."

Land redistribution policy would demand the effective, productive and sustainable use of land as a resource. The pilot programme was a concrete step which was central to rural development.

The land reform pro-

gramme would also attack poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and economic depression which many rural areas had experienced.

The KwaNobamba project and eight similar initiatives in other regions would serve as a test, and the lessons learned in their implementation would eventually be applied to each district across SA.

The Estcourt-Weenen district was chosen because land-related and planning programmes were already under way. (21) (3)

"The people of this area have demonstrated that they are ready to shoulder responsibility for their own development and resolve their own problems," Mandela said. 2027/3/95

The way in which resi-

dents had dealt with a threatened land invasion last year, and the farmworkers and farm tenants' strike this year, had demonstrated their maturity.

"We are confident the R35m which will be invested into this project in the next three years will be money well spent," Mandela said.

The programme would,

benefit 40 000 people by improving their living standards and by creating employment opportunities.

He said local authorities had a major role to play in the implementation of these programmes as they would receive the state grants for the communities, determine who the beneficiaries would be and oversee the deployment of the money allocated.

"This is why you should register for the November elections," Mandela said.

Mandela launches project

PRESIDENT Mandela yesterday launched the first land reform project in the Estcourt-Weenen district of KwaZulu-Natal.

He said the project — one of the Presidential Projects announced last year — and eight similar ones in other provinces, would open the way for a systematic land reform and development. He said the project was a test. "Its lessons will be applied to each district and locality across the country over time." He said R35 million would be ploughed into the project over the next three years.

The Government, in addressing land and hunger, would not embark on a simplistic, punitive and unproductive exercise, but

would always pursue a land redistribution policy based on effective and productive use of land as a resource in a sustainable way, Mandela said.

"Our pilot land reform programme is a concrete first step in our land redistribution programme. This in turn is central to rural development, which will address poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and economic depression that characterise so much of our rural areas.

"As such, land reform is an integral part of the Reconstruction and Development Programme." Mandela urged the Estcourt-Weenen community to register for the local government elections.

30233 *Southern*

27/3/95

'Concrete first step'

3 (27) 27/3/95

Mandela gets land reform project going

Weenen — President Mandela yesterday launched a R35-million land reform programme in KwaZulu-Natal aimed at returning land to blacks who had been dispossessed during the apartheid era.

"We are today launching a project that will benefit your rural community of 45 000 people. It will help bring jobs and a better standard of living," Mandela told a crowd of about 1 000 at a sports field in KwaZulu-Natal's Midlands.

He said the project aimed to correct the wrongs that colonial invasion had inflicted on South Africa's communities.

Mandela said the Government wanted to find a solution to South Africa's land disputes which was acceptable to all, and which eliminated suspicion, mistrust and anger.

He added that the Government's land redistribution policy insisted on the effective and productive use of land.

"Our pilot land reform programme is a concrete first step in our land redistribution pro-

gramme. This, in turn, is central to rural development, which will address the poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and economic depression that characterises so much of our rural areas."

The project is one of nine — one in each province.

Mandela said R35-million would be ploughed into the Weenen project over the next three years.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom told reporters that rural blacks in the district had legitimate rights to land which they had been evicted from over the years. They had been engaged in talks with white farmers for several months, culminating in yesterday's launch.

He said State-owned land and private farms which were up for sale would be used for the project.

"Their needs can't be denied. There's an incredibly urgent need for land, and (white) farmers have come to accept that they can be part of the solution," he said. — Reuter.

Top 20 in Land Rights Parade

ARLT 24/6/95

③

Lawyer isolates priority claims to present to court

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
Staff Reporter

LAWYER Wallace Mgoqi, regional land claims commissioner for the Western and Northern Cape, had a hard task when he set about isolating 20 land rights restitution cases he believes should be given top priority.

The 10 Western Cape cases he will put before the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights

for immediate consideration, with the other region choices, range from Simon's Town to Stellenbosch.

Mr Mgoqi said the claims were mainly against state-owned land and these claims would be finalised within a month to be used as precedents to be put to the Land Claims Courts at its inception.

One claim in the Northern Cape involved eight communities, who had already lodged their claim with the previous commission, he said.

Some of the land was now in the hands of farmers, who were only too willing to negotiate, said Mr Mgoqi.

Negotiations would begin soon, he said.

"In some cases, where both parties are willing to reach a settlement, the only matter that will cause a delay will be the availability of resources from the state," said Mr Mgoqi.

The land being claimed ranged in value from R500 000 to R1 million but most of it was fairly fertile farming land.

"In most of these cases restitution will be possible and the farmer will have to be compensated by the Ministry of Land Affairs, which is

■ Twenty land-restitution claims are being given priority in the Western and Northern Cape and claimants could find themselves celebrating before Christmas.

working out workable formulas for compensation."

Full details of the claims are being kept under wraps until the current land-owners have been informed. It was hoped that judges would be appointed to the Land Claims Courts by the end of July.

"The first cases should be going to court by the end of August, beginning of September," he said.

There have been 586 land claims in the Western Cape and 108 in the Northern Cape lodged with the national office. Of the 44 claims lodged from May 1 this year with the Western and Northern land claims commission office, 30 have been processed and will be published with a notice in the Government gazette.

So far, 4 592 land claims have been made around the country. Around R13,5 million is being made available to the commission for the 1995/96 financial year. It is believed R60 million

in total is being set aside to meet the claims, said Mr Mgoqi.

Mr Mgoqi has his own land claim he will be putting before his counterpart in the Eastern Cape.

"Fortunately, it does not fall within my own jurisdiction or I would have had to recuse myself," he laughed.

Mr Mgoqi's grandfather had land in the Hertzog district, near Fort Beaufort, and the family became sharecroppers and part-owners of the land.

"There was some decree that farmers had to evict African families from farm. The land changed hands and my family and others were forced off the farm where they had lived for more than 30 years," he said.

Mr Mgoqi's claim has not yet been put forward.

"I want to give priority to others and put myself at the end of the process," he said.

Land-rights restitution was a positive step in balancing the scales and healing the wounds, said Mr Mgoqi. Having his family's land restored would help him, he said.

"It certainly will but I think there are more deserving cases and more tragic stories."



Picture: JACK LESTRADE.

□ **BUSY ROLE:** Wallace Mgoqi, pictured with volunteer Sarah Mosyppe, is being flooded with land-restitution claims he will have to assess.



Land project launched

WEENEN: The government's land reform was a concrete step in addressing social disparities and was not a simplistic, punitive and unproductive exercise, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

He was speaking at the launch of the kwaZulu/Natal Land Reform Pilot Programme at kwaNobamba.

"We seek a solution that is acceptable to all, an approach that eliminates the suspicion, mistrust, and anger that have characterised land disputes over the years," he said.

Mr Mandela said the pilot programme was a concrete step in the government's land redistribution programme, which, in turn, was central to rural development.

It would also address poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and economic depression.

CT 27/3/95

part, which concerned the South African representative who was going to be in touch with Ms Emma Nicholson to listen to the tape.

I am not sure whether he could explain why that contact has not been made. If it has not been made as yet, when is it to be made? The allegations are that Ms Nicholson has the tape-recording which has been listened to by press reporters but not by the representatives of the South African Government or the SA Police Service as yet.

The MINISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I thought my answer was loud and clear. I said that the SA Police Service had requested a member of the South African embassy in London to make contact with the British member of Parliament. As of yesterday, when I was preparing this reply, such contact had not been made. If there is a request from the hon member that we need to check why such contact has still not been made, I will welcome such advice. [Interjections.]

Visit to West Africa: official visit/cost

*3. Dr B L GELDENHUYS asked the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology:†

Whether the visit of the Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology to West Africa was an official State visit; if so, what was the cost thereof to the taxpayer; if not, who paid for it?

N227E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (on behalf of the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.):

- (1) The visit to West Africa was an official State visit.
- (2) The total cost can not be determined at this stage as the South African Missions in the countries visited by the Deputy Minister have not yet filed claims with the Department.

Pilot land reform programme: communities that will benefit **3**

*4. Mrs S M CAMERER asked the Minister of Land Affairs: *Hansard 29/3/95*

- (1) Which communities will benefit from the first pilot land reform programme;
- (2) whether rural women will specifically be targeted for assistance in respect of hav-

ing access to land under this programme; if not, why not; if so, how many?

N228E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) Communities from within the selected pilot districts will be the ones who will benefit from the Land Reform Pilot Programme in terms of planning undertaken within the District by local stakeholders. The North West and Eastern Transvaal will finalise their districts within the next week—so we are told. The following Pilot Districts have been selected by the Provinces:

(a) KwaZulu-Natal Province: Weenen-Estcourt (including Tugela Estates)

The pilot district is bounded by the Klipriver magisterial district to the north with the Tugela river, including the 2 km strip of flood plains known as Tugela estates forming the northern physical boundary. The Drakensberg escarpment forms the western boundary and the Mooi River magisterial district the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is formed by the Msinga and Umvoti magisterial districts. The Muden farms identified for possible settlement, but falling within the Umvoti magisterial district, are included within the Pilot Land Reform Programme.

The Pilot District incorporates the small urban settlements of Estcourt, Wembezi, Winterton, Colenso and Weenen. Rural and freehold settlements include Cornfields, Thembalihle, Draycott, Gannahoek, Loskop, Craig, Loch Sloy, Muden and settlements in the Drakensberg Locations 1 and 2.

(b) Northern Cape Province: North Eastern Area

The District encompasses parts of the magisterial districts of Warrenton, Barkly West, Herbert, Kuruman and Postmasburg.

(c) Western Cape Province: South Cape

This district consists of the southern heights and coastal plain from Swellendam and Witsand in the west

to Nature's Valley and the eastern provincial boundary of the Western Cape. The districts included are: Knysna, George, Mossel Bay, Riversdale and Heidelberg and the eastern part of Swellendam.

In the Gauteng province it is the Rust de Winter area . . . [Interjections.] Is that hon member bored? Does he want to go home? [Interjections.]

Mr A FOURIE: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I think the Minister is not answering the question. All that the hon member wants to know is which communities are involved, not the areas. That we already know. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Could the hon the Minister please proceed, but keep his answer concise.

The MINISTER: Yes, Mr Speaker. The communities are in those areas mentioned. There are many other areas, and I will pass these on directly to the hon member. I am, of course, puzzled as to why somebody else should speak on her behalf, but never mind.

The answer to the second part of her question is yes, overall the programme is intended to enhance . . . [Interjections.] Mr Speaker, I am trying to protect the hon member who would like to hear my reply, but the members of her own party will not allow her to hear it. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: (2) Yes. Overall, the Programme is intended to enhance the material, political, and social status of women. The Framework for Planning requires the involvement of women as beneficiaries and in positions of decision-making in the Programme. Women will therefore be directly involved in compiling the District and Project plans. These plans will have to indicate how the resources will directly benefit women.

The number of women beneficiaries will be determined in the course of District and Project planning by the communities themselves.

Mrs S M CAMERER: Mr Speaker, I was very glad to hear about these lucky districts. However, arising from the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him how these communities have been identified.

With regard to the second part of my original question, I want to ask the Minister if he is aware of evidence being presented in the Beijing conference report on the status of women to the effect that even when rural women acquire land in certain parts of the country in their own name, it is often confiscated by tribal authorities, unless they sell it. In fact, they get no benefit from the land. I should like to know whether any steps have been taken to prevent that situation occurring if and where land is allocated to women beneficiaries.

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the districts were chosen by the provinces themselves. In fact, in almost every case these decisions were ratified by the provincial Cabinets. We are still waiting, as I have said, for the decisions to be finalised by the Eastern Transvaal and North-West provinces.

The whole pilot land reform programme was subject to intensive discussions between MECs at the monthly meeting which I convened of members of the executive councils of the provinces dealing with land reform in their provinces. So, the choices were made by the provinces themselves and ratified by cabinets.

As far as the second part of the hon member's question is concerned—it is a complicated question—much research has been done about women and their access to land, and much more work still has to be done. Some of the research indicates that often it is not women who are the direct applicants of land, and in certain cases, when given choices, women would indicate that their first priority is indeed not land. Often it is the husbands who wish to acquire land, because research has shown that men are generally not the people who work that land. So, sometimes women are burdened by additional land when their first priorities might be water, child-care facilities, better health care, education and so on.

There are many considerations when it comes to women's access to land, but clearly, the entire customary tenure system is under review. It is part of our department's work to set up a tenure reform programme which will look at some of the problems within the existing diversity of forms of tenure in our country, and to ensure that it not only recognises the strengths of the indigenous tenure system—indeed it has many strengths—but also identifies some of its weak-

nesses. He should also try to address some of those weaknesses, including women's rights to land in our policy positions.

Mrs S M CAMERER: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, is it perhaps the position that these husbands are applying for the land because women do not have the right to acquire the land, and unless the husbands defend their right, as the Beijing Conference report indicates, this would be confiscated by the tribal authorities? Does the Minister not think that perhaps the picture is being distorted, because women do not have the right to acquire land, and the husbands have to do it for them?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, under this programme women do have the right to acquire land unambiguously, but of course there will be communities acquiring the land. The programme does not dictate to communities how they should arrange their internal matters.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, is the Minister aware of the dissatisfaction within the Portfolio Committee on Land Affairs in that they were not consulted beforehand as far as these pilot projects are concerned, and what is he going to do to ensure that this committee will in future be consulted for the sake of transparency?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the answer to the question is no, I am not aware that the portfolio committee is dissatisfied; this has not been communicated to me. I would appreciate such a communication formally, and then we can address that problem. I should say that I believe the relationship with the portfolio committee is a very good one, certainly with its chairperson. We have a series of discussions lined up, including some about the pilot projects.

I believe a comprehensive briefing on the pilot programme was given to the portfolio committee for the second time yesterday. We have various other topics identified by hon members, on which I or people identified by me or requested by hon members will be consulted. Briefings will take place, and discussions will be held with members of the portfolio committee. We appreciate the valuable inputs from members of the portfolio committee.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, will he ensure that the portfolio committee is briefed beforehand, and that they do not hear of pilot projects being announced in the press, after which they are then briefed in the portfolio committee?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, I think a longer discussion will be necessary, involving myself and others about the respective roles of Ministers, the executive and the legislature. It is clear that the primary source of consultation and involvement was with the MECs, who then took this to their provincial cabinets. It is not always clear to me, nor to other Ministers, exactly where one draws the line with regard to the implementation of one's programme, the execution of one's work, and the legislative functions of Parliament.

Funding of SA delegation to World Conference on Women

*5. Mrs S M CAMERER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department will be responsible for sending all or part of the South African delegation to the World Conference on Women in Beijing from 4 to 5 September 1995; if not, why not; if so, (a) what amount has been set aside for funding this delegation and (b) how large will the delegation be;
- (2) whether the said delegation will be fully representative of political parties across the political spectrum; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N229E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

All visits abroad by Ministers and/or Deputy Ministers require the approval of the Office of the President, acting on the recommendation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. According to international practice, only the Minister of Foreign Affairs may issue credentials in respect of official delegations representing the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

The Fourth World Conference on the Status of Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995 is of a multidisciplinary nature since it concerns all aspects of the empowerment of women. A Ministerial Meeting on 30 May

1994 transferred overall domestic responsibility in respect of the empowerment of women to the Office of the Minister Without Portfolio. The Deputy Minister for Welfare has been appointed Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee in respect of preparations for the Beijing Conference.

Nominations on the part of Ministries/departments/administrations and political parties in respect of representatives to be considered for inclusion in the delegation to the Beijing Conference should be directed to the Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee.

- (1) (a) In terms of State Expenditure Rulings, departments may only accept financial responsibility for their own line-function activities. Read together with Treasury Regulations K3.12.6, K3.12.9, U2.1.2 and U2.1.3, which, inter alia, determine that all subsistence and other expenses incurred by delegates to these international conferences shall be met from the Vote from which that delegate's salary is paid, it is clear that the Department of Foreign Affairs can only fund its own officials.

Ministries/departments/administrations/political parties wishing to nominate delegates for inclusion in delegations to international conferences remain responsible for all costs relating to such attendances.

- (2) The Department of Foreign Affairs is of the opinion that the Fourth World Conference on the Status of Women should be fully representative of political parties and NGOs in South Africa. The Department would like to use this opportunity to encourage political parties to submit nominations for consideration for inclusion in the delegation to the Beijing Conference to the Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee, which is chaired by the Deputy Minister for Welfare.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! May I just ask from the Chair whether men would be eligible to form part of this delegation? [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the gender issue is also of concern to men, and therefore you can send your name in to the chairperson. [Laughter.]

Transfer of MMVAF to Minister of Finance

*6. Dr P J WELGEMOED asked the Minister of Transport: *HANSARD 29/3/95*

- (1) Whether it is intended to transfer the Multilateral Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund to the Minister of Finance; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, when;
- (2) whether this fund currently has an actuarial deficit; if so,
- (3) whether he or his Department has established whether the Minister of Finance will underwrite this deficit; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N230E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR (on behalf of the Minister of Transport):

- (1) No. The question whether the MMF should fall under the political control of the Minister of Finance or not will be addressed together with various other important fundamental policy issues regarding the workings of the Third Party Insurance Scheme by the Board of the MMF in conjunction with the Department of Finance.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) As indicated under (1), various fundamental policy issues are presently being dealt with by the Board of the MMF including the question of a state guarantee for the outstanding claims amount not actuarially formed to consider this issue of a state guarantee.

Problems experienced by school feeding scheme in Gauteng *(29/3)*

*7. Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister for Health: *HANSARD 29/3/95*

- (1) Whether, with reference to certain media reports, the school feeding scheme in Gauteng is experiencing problems resulting in large numbers of children not receiving any bread every day; if so, (a) what is causing these problems and (b) what steps are being taken to resolve the problems;
- (2) whether problems with the school feeding scheme are also being experienced in other provinces; if so, in which provinces?

N231E

part, which concerned the South African representative who was going to be in touch with Ms Emma Nicholson to listen to the tape.

I am not sure whether he could explain why that contact has not been made. If it has not been made as yet, when is it to be made? The allegations are that Ms Nicholson has the tape-recording which has been listened to by press reporters but not by the representatives of the South African Government or the SA Police Service as yet.

The MINISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I thought my answer was loud and clear. I said that the SA Police Service had requested a member of the South African embassy in London to make contact with the British member of Parliament. As of yesterday, when I was preparing this reply, such contact had not been made. If there is a request from the hon member that we need to check why such contact has still not been made, I will welcome such advice. [Interjections.]

Visit to West Africa: official visit/cost

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Pilot land reform programme: communities that will benefit **(3)**

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- (b) Northern Cape Province: North Eastern Area

The District encompasses parts of the magisterial districts of Warrenton, Barkly West, Herbert, Kuruman and Postmasburg.

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This district consists of the southern heights and coastal plain from Swellendam and Witsand in the west

to Nature's Valley and the eastern provincial boundary of the Western Cape. The districts included are: Knysna, George, Mossel Bay, Riversdale and Heidelberg and the eastern part of Swellendam.

In the Gauteng province it is the Rust de Winter area . . . [Interjections.] Is that hon member bored? Does he want to go home? [Interjections.]

Mr A FOURIE: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I think the Minister is not answering the question. All that the hon member wants to know is which communities are involved, not the areas. That we already know. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Could the hon the Minister please proceed, but keep his answer concise.

The MINISTER: Yes, Mr Speaker. The communities are in those areas mentioned. There are many other areas, and I will pass these on directly to the hon member. I am, of course, puzzled as to why somebody else should speak on her behalf, but never mind.

The answer to the second part of her question is yes, overall the programme is intended to enhance . . . [Interjections.] Mr Speaker, I am trying to protect the hon member who would like to hear my reply, but the members of her own party will not allow her to hear it. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: (2) Yes. Overall, the Programme is intended to enhance the material, political, and social status of women. The Framework for Planning requires the involvement of women as beneficiaries and in positions of decision-making in the Programme. Women will therefore be directly involved in compiling the District and Project plans. These plans will have to indicate how the resources will directly benefit women.

The number of women beneficiaries will be determined in the course of District and Project planning by the communities themselves.

Mrs S M CAMERER: Mr Speaker, I was very glad to hear about these lucky districts. However, arising from the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him how these communities have been identified.

With regard to the second part of my original question, I want to ask the Minister if he is aware of evidence being presented in the Beijing conference report on the status of women to the effect that even when rural women acquire land in certain parts of the country in their own name, it is often confiscated by tribal authorities, unless they sell it. In fact, they get no benefit from the land. I should like to know whether any steps have been taken to prevent that situation occurring if and where land is allocated to women beneficiaries.

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the districts were chosen by the provinces themselves. In fact, in almost every case these decisions were ratified by the provincial Cabinets. We are still waiting, as I have said, for the decisions to be finalised by the Eastern Transvaal and North-West provinces.

The whole pilot land reform programme was subject to intensive discussions between MECs at the monthly meeting which I convened of members of the executive councils of the provinces dealing with land reform in their provinces. So, the choices were made by the provinces themselves and ratified by cabinets.

As far as the second part of the hon member's question is concerned—it is a complicated question—much research has been done about women and their access to land, and much more work still has to be done. Some of the research indicates that often it is not women who are the direct applicants of land, and in certain cases, when given choices, women would indicate that their first priority is indeed not land. Often it is the husbands who wish to acquire land, because research has shown that men are generally not the people who work that land. So, sometimes women are burdened by additional land when their first priorities might be water, child-care facilities, better health care, education and so on.

There are many considerations when it comes to women's access to land, but clearly, the entire customary tenure system is under review. It is part of our department's work to set up a tenure reform programme which will look at some of the problems within the existing diversity of forms of tenure in our country, and to ensure that it not only recognises the strengths of the indigenous tenure system—indeed it has many strengths—but also identifies some of its weak-

nesses. He should also try to address some of those weaknesses, including women's rights to land in our policy positions.

Mrs S M CAMERER: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, is it perhaps the position that these husbands are applying for the land because women do not have the right to acquire the land, and unless the husbands defend their right, as the Beijing Conference report indicates, this would be confiscated by the tribal authorities? Does the Minister not think that perhaps the picture is being distorted, because women do not have the right to acquire land, and the husbands have to do it for them?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, under this programme women do have the right to acquire land unambiguously, but of course there will be communities acquiring the land. The programme does not dictate to communities how they should arrange their internal matters.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, is the Minister aware of the dissatisfaction within the Portfolio Committee on Land Affairs in that they were not consulted beforehand as far as these pilot projects are concerned, and what is he going to do to ensure that this committee will in future be consulted for the sake of transparency?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the answer to the question is no, I am not aware that the portfolio committee is dissatisfied; this has not been communicated to me. I would appreciate such a communication formally, and then we can address that problem. I should say that I believe my relationship with the portfolio committee is a very good one, certainly with its chairperson. We have a series of discussions lined up, including some about the pilot projects.

I believe a comprehensive briefing on the pilot programme was given to the portfolio committee for the second time yesterday. We have various other topics identified by hon members, on which I or people identified by me or requested by hon members will be consulted. Briefings will take place, and discussions will be held with members of the portfolio committee. We appreciate the valuable inputs from members of the portfolio committee.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, will he ensure that the portfolio committee is briefed beforehand, and that they do not hear of pilot projects being announced in the press, after which they are then briefed in the portfolio committee?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, I think a longer discussion will be necessary, involving myself and others about the respective roles of Ministers, the executive and the legislature. It is clear that the primary source of consultation and involvement was with the MECs, who then took this to their provincial cabinets. It is not always clear to me, nor to other Ministers, exactly where one draws the line with regard to the implementation of one's programme, the execution of one's work, and the legislative functions of Parliament.

Funding of SA delegation to World Conference on Women

*5. Mrs S M CAMERER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department will be responsible for sending all or part of the South African delegation to the World Conference on Women in Beijing from 4 to 5 September 1995; if not, why not; if so, (a) what amount has been set aside for funding this delegation and (b) how large will the delegation be;
- (2) whether the said delegation will be fully representative of political parties across the political spectrum; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N229E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

All visits abroad by Ministers and/or Deputy Ministers require the approval of the Office of the President, acting on the recommendation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. According to international practice, only the Minister of Foreign Affairs may issue credentials in respect of official delegations representing the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

The Fourth World Conference on the Status of Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995 is of a multidisciplinary nature since it concerns all aspects of the empowerment of women. A Ministerial Meeting on 30 May

1994 transferred overall domestic responsibility in respect of the empowerment of women to the Office of the Minister Without Portfolio. The Deputy Minister for Welfare has been appointed Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee in respect of preparations for the Beijing Conference.

Nominations on the part of Ministries/departments/administrations and political parties in respect of representatives to be considered for inclusion in the delegation to the Beijing Conference should be directed to the Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee.

- (1) (a) In terms of State Expenditure Rulings, departments may only accept financial responsibility for their own line-function activities. Read together with Treasury Regulations K3.12.6, K3.12.9, U2.1.2 and U2.1.3, which, inter alia, determine that all subsistence and other expenses incurred by delegates to these international conferences shall be met from the Vote from which that delegate's salary is paid, it is clear that the Department of Foreign Affairs can only fund its own officials.

Ministries/departments/administrations/political parties wishing to nominate delegates for inclusion in delegations to international conferences remain responsible for all costs relating to such attendances.

- (2) The Department of Foreign Affairs is of the opinion that the Fourth World Conference on the Status of Women should be fully representative of political parties and NGOs in South Africa. The Department would like to use this opportunity to encourage political parties to submit nominations for consideration for inclusion in the delegation to the Beijing Conference to the Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee, which is chaired by the Deputy Minister for Welfare.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! May I just ask from the Chair whether men would be eligible to form part of this delegation? [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the gender issue is also of concern to men, and therefore you can send your name in to the chairperson. [Laughter.]

Transfer of MMVAF to Minister of Finance

*6. Dr P J WEIGEMOED asked the Minister of Transport: *Hansard 29/3/95*

- (1) Whether it is intended to transfer the Multilateral Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund to the Minister of Finance; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, when;
- (2) whether this fund currently has an actuarial deficit; if so,
- (3) whether he or his Department has established whether the Minister of Finance will underwrite this deficit; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N230E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR (on behalf of the Minister of Transport):

- (1) No. The question whether the MMF should fall under the political control of the Minister of Finance or not will be addressed together with various other important fundamental policy issues regarding the workings of the Third Party Insurance Scheme by the Board of the MMF in conjunction with the Department of Finance.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) As indicated under (1), various fundamental policy issues are presently being dealt with by the Board of the MMF including the question of a state guarantee for the outstanding claims amount not actuarially formed to consider this issue of a state guarantee.

Problems experienced by school feeding scheme in Gauteng *(28)*

*7. Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister for Health: *Hansard 29/3/95*

- (1) Whether, with reference to certain media reports, the school feeding scheme in Gauteng is experiencing problems resulting in large numbers of children not receiving any bread every day; if so, (a) what is causing these problems and (b) what steps are being taken to resolve the problems;
- (2) whether problems with the school feeding scheme are also being experienced in other provinces; if so, in which provinces?

N231E

Water talks to continue

BD 20/3/95 MDUDUZI KA HARVEY (3) (123)

CENTRAL government was not happy about a proposal that water affairs in KwaZulu/Natal be transferred to the province but negotiations with provincial leaders would continue, a spokesman for Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kadar Asmal said yesterday.

Themba Khumalo said KwaZulu/Natal premier Frank Mdlalose was told, at a meeting between Asmal, Mdlalose and members of his cabinet to discuss water management earlier this month, that this area could not be regionalised. No province could claim to own certain rivers as they ran through different provinces.

Khumalo was speaking after the Inkatha Freedom Party tabled a proposal in the legislature on Tuesday that the province wrest control of central government control over land, water and forestry.

Khumalo said Mdlalose was told that in terms of the new constitution water could not be made a provincial matter. Water management was a Ministerial duty.

Khumalo said his department had been surprised that the matter had been raised in the KwaZulu/Natal legislature as a future meeting was still in the pipeline.

Inkatha's proposal also called for land affairs to fall under the province to deal with the issue of evictions, land invasions and landlessness of disadvantaged people.

Land Affairs spokesman Helmut Schleiter said a trust had control of the land and that at a full Cabinet meeting last year it was decided that the trust would be revised.

Drought aid caution

■ BY ESTHER WAUGH

Cape Town — The ready application of drought aid does not encourage sustainable farming practices, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

He wrote an open letter to SA Agricultural Union president Boet Fourie clarifying his position on drought relief after a furore broke out at the weekend among farmers over reported statements on the issue by the minister.

In his letter, Hanekom noted that SA was a drought-prone country. "My statement was not an attack on the proposed drought measures, but rather a general word of caution against continued drought relief expenditure in a country where drought is a reality — a reality which farmers will have to come to grips with."

He commended farmers who have designed sustainable farming systems to cope with periods of prolonged drought — "many of whom have done so without a cent of government subsidy".

Hanekom said his statements on drought relief were not an attempt to force farmers off their land, as the supply of land on the market was more than what the Government could take advantage of.

(3) star 30/3/95

WATER

Parched policy

Minister of Water Affairs & Forestry Kader Asmal is nothing if not enthusiastic about his job. Waxing lyrical, he last week sketched out a scenario that partly foresaw a drought-stricken, parched future — yet at the same time promised everyone the earth, or at least the waters thereon.

The portfolio over which he presides is bedevilled by laws governing water use. In a new publication by his department called *You and Your Water Rights*, he argues for the consolidation of at least 34 existing Acts in one water law, and asks for public

submissions on how this is to be done.

He describes water as “one of the basic ingredients of life, without which no form of life would exist.” This is undoubtedly true, if obvious, but where Asmal has broken new ground is in his use of the constitution as a guarantor that all shall have water to drink, flush and irrigate.

Indeed, he uses the chapter on fundamental rights in the interim constitution of 1993 to define the issues and the basis on which submissions are to be framed.

The constitution says, for example, that “every person shall have the right to respect for and protection of his or her dignity.” Asmal reflects that “it is not possible for dignity to be maintained amid grinding poverty, of which the lack of basic services

tributing factor”.

Other rights are cited and attached to water rights. The overwhelming pressure of the argument is that “there are clearly *de facto* inequalities in the area of water supply and where this is contributed to by law, changes will have to be made.” In short, the inheritance of colonial and apartheid law must be overcome to ensure universal water supply and water-borne sewerage.

No civilised country can allow its citizens to die of thirst or the gross diseases of poverty — at the very least, attempts to alleviate destitution are fully justified and within the prerogative of the State. Asmal’s argument, however, is fairly crudely based on accusations of “us versus them.” This is apparent in his frank comments at a media conference, that his intentions amount to striking at “the citadel of power and wealth in SA.” The “rich” — as he defines them — must be penalised for their use of water.

Thus, in announcing a 10% hike in irrigation water tariffs, Asmal excluded certain “designated socio-economic schemes” where the rise would be limited to 5%. There are other exceptions, but the intention appears to be to penalise industry and, possibly, garden lovers so that “there is enough for the needy but not the greedy.” This is price control *plus* selective rationing and if implemented with severity — as Asmal apparently intends — would most likely have the effect of driving marginal concerns to bankruptcy, destroying jobs and revenue for any social programmes.

Asmal’s contention that water has in the past been allocated on racial grounds is absurd. While it is uncontested that major irrigation schemes and water for industry have diverted water from its traditional courses in SA (mostly into the hot air), these schemes have benefited the poor in that they enable food to be grown and work to be created. In the absence of evidence that anyone anywhere in SA is actually dying of thirst, Asmal’s economic views are strictly Marxist in that they posit a finite quantity of resources which needs to be redistributed on purely social grounds.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom’s concurrent attack on drought relief — which he says has encouraged maize growing in inappropriate areas, and inefficient farming generally — is at odds with Asmal’s vision, though it may have a hidden political agenda related to land redistribution. The point is that SA is nothing if not marked by wholesale population movements in response to economic signals. A loading of city costs for water would thus penalise the poor as well.

If anything, water usage in industry needs subsidy; that is where its long-term productivity is most marked. The constitution also guarantees the right “freely to engage in economic activity.” And as for suburban consumers, surely the constitutional right to dignity and a clean environment includes growing roses? ■

Crisis looms as ³ Cape Town's ² water dries up

Municipal Staff ARG 29/3/95

CAPE TOWN's water supply is slowly but surely drying up and the city could end up with a water shortage in the future if new dams are not built, the regional director of the Department of Water Affairs has warned.

James Butler said his department had kept a data bank on the storage levels of Western Cape dams and all the information showed the dams could not keep up with the demand for water.

"We have been keeping records and drawing graphs of storage levels and rainfall figures for most of the province's major dams for the past 10 years and the graphs show a downward trend.

"Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal announced plans about two months ago for the development of a dam on the Palmiet River. This would help alleviate the demand for water caused by the rapid influx of people to the urban centre."

Declining water levels at Cape Town's major supply dams this week were:

- Steenbras Lower — 34 percent, last year's level was 35,8 percent,
- Theewaterskloof — 64 percent compared to the two-year average of 67 percent,
- Voëlvlei — 47,4 percent while for the past 10 years the average for March was 73 percent, and
- Wemmershoek — 51,3 percent full compared to the 10-year average of 59 percent.

The only exception has been Steenbras Upper — 93 percent compared to 65 percent.

TICK

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Land reform: An in-depth look at an issue with no easy solution ...

'Ms Land' has a grand plan to reshape SA

31/3-6/4/95

③

Sue Lund has calmly negotiated the 'landmines' of the land issue to write a balanced five-year plan for land distribution, writes **Eddie Koch**

TEN years ago she was an idealistic young student who wanted to change the world. Today, still looking wide-eyed and innocent, Sue Lund is doing just that. She is the author of South Africa's single biggest social engineering programme since apartheid.

As designer and manager of the country's land redistribution programme, a first step in the government's five-year plan to parcel out 30 percent of the country's arable land to the rural poor, her job is to reshape a terrain that has been skewed by centuries of colonial and segregationist policies.

It is an office of power, one fraught with complexity and danger, which she occupies with unexpected calm and predictable modesty. "I really don't see why you should be interviewing me. There are lots of other women involved in land issues. You should do an article

on all of us."

That collective approach, she insists, is the great strength of the land redistribution programme. Its single chance of success in the face of overwhelming odds derives from a team of assistants who honed their skill in years of fighting forced removals in the countryside during the 1980s.

Which is where the 33-year-old woman's path to an office near the Union Buildings in Pretoria begins. In the mid-1980s, Lund left home in Pietermaritzburg and went to Rhodes University intent on becoming a journalist. She ended up devoting most of her time to the United Democratic Front, the End Conscription Campaign, and the Grahamstown Rural Committee, which she helped form to fight the forced removal of "black spot" settlements in the Eastern Cape.

"It was an exhilarating time. We were all doing everything and reading about Lenin, Cuba and revolutions at the same time ... It was easy to get distracted into land issues."

During one of these distractions — a meeting at her home with people from the Thornhill resettlement camp in Transkei to discuss how they could reoccupy their land — a bunch of policemen burst through the door and detained her under state of emergency

regulations.

That was her first spell behind bars. The next came a year later. She was detained again under the emergency in November 1986 and released after 11 months with orders barring her from working with communities that had been forcibly removed.

"You know, you sit in prison thinking about life and it strengthens your resolve." So when she got out she left for England where she studied at the University of England for two years and was awarded an MA in rural development planning with distinction. That academic experience was used to design the complex programme of land reform in South Africa.

Was it influenced by Lenin, Cuba and revolutions? "Let's just say we have learnt a lot from things that have happened in-between," says Lund — although the new-found pragmatism does not prevent her from doing tai chi as often as possible and writing a novel, sometimes on scraps of paper when her interminable meetings in Pretoria get boring.

Lund's redistribution scheme ("please remember it isn't mine, there is a team of us working on it") relies on

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Land reform: An in-depth look at an issue with no easy solution ...

'Ms Land' has a grand plan to reshape SA

31/3-6/4/95

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Sue Lund has calmly negotiated the 'landmines' of the land issue to write a balanced five-year plan for land distribution, writes **Eddie Koch**

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Sue Lund: Calmly negotiating the dangers of land distribution PHOTO: RUTH MOTAU

Lund's plan for land

From PAGE 10

a range of mechanisms to reverse the effects of the past without resorting to expropriations and high-handed state interventions that have bedevilled land reform in many other countries.

Built into it are articulate replies to most objections levelled at the programme. On the complaint that the poorest of the poor lack the wherewithal to participate in land purchase schemes, she notes that a thorough review of the country's credit institutions is under way and schemes will be implemented to ensure that those who don't have existing collateral will get access to land purchase loans.

What about the moral argument that people should not have to pay for land that was stolen from them and the prediction that, despite the reforms, there will be mass land invasions in many parts of the country?

"I don't think these are as likely as some people assume. Rural people are risk-averse and don't easily look for conflict ... There are plans to scale up the national programme even before the two-year period for the pilot projects is up. Within that time the pilots will expand as we develop a budgeting system for the rest of the country ... We are putting a lot of faith in local government and local planning abilities."

Concerns coming mainly from white farmers about possible degradation of land that has been reallocated to black settlers can be dealt with in local forums which will be set up under the scheme. Plans submitted by these to the provincial land reform committees will be carefully scrutinised for their sustainability, she says.

"People will have to look at things like carrying capacity, erosion and a range of possible land uses. Their plans will have to meet strict standards and must be environmentally sustainable ... How this will work in practice, we will have to wait and see."

Sometimes, when she sits in her Pretoria office pondering these things, or sneaking time to work on her novel, a fax will arrive addressed to Miss Land. There is a meaning in the mistakes. To many South Africans she is Ms Land: author of the single biggest piece of social engineering this country has seen since apartheid.

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WM 31/3-6/4/95

... and the people grappling with it

Fragile pact staves off war in Weenen

Eddie Koch

NELSON MANDELA'S air force helicopter was covered in camouflage paint and created a scene from a war film as it thudded over the green hills and thorn trees that surround Weenen.

Although unintended, the image was appropriate because the president had come to this farming town in kwaZulu-Natal on Sunday to help settle a land battle that has verged on civil war in the past six months.

"We seek a solution that is generally acceptable to all, an approach that eliminates the suspicion, mistrust and anger that have characterised land disputes over the years," Mandela told a few thousand people who had gathered on a rain-soaked football field near the town.

His was a timely effort to help end a bout of social trauma that has swept through the region ahead of anticipated agrarian reforms after last year's elections. White farmers, fearful of claims from people who have lived on the land for decades, have been evicting scores of black families, impounding their cattle and burning some of their homesteads. These workers and farm tenants responded first by threatening an armed invasion of white-owned land late last year, and then by waging a massive labour strike this year that ended only in Feb-

ruary. At different stages of these ferocious conflicts, cattle were hamstringed, fences ripped down and two farmers assassinated.

Class conflict of this nature has become chronic, embedded in the countryside around Weenen, ever since Boer settlers invaded during the 1830s and broke the power of the Zulu state in a series of bitter battles whose monuments still litter the surrounding hills.

After they seized vast tracts of prime cattle country, the settlers forced the local inhabitants to work on their farms for six months of the year in return for a small plot and some land to graze their cattle. That system of labour tenancy, known colloquially as *isithupa* (the Zulu word for six), has survived in modified form as a reminder of the region's colonial past.

As the social conflicts that *isithupa* has always generated in Weenen sharpened after the April elections, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom was forced to step in. Late last year he brokered a deal whereby the farmers agreed to a moratorium on evictions while the workers promised to hold off on the invasion.

A Weenen Peace and Development Committee, made up of black tenants and white farmers, was established to identify land which can be acquired for



Staking a claim: Workers in Weenen hoping for a solution to the land battle

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

Don't use 'bantustan solutions'

(3) 31/3-6/4/95
The concerns of commercial farmers should be taken into account, argues **Graham McIntosh**

ALTHOUGH some of our farmers have a racist prejudice that blacks can't be good farmers, they represent a lumatic fringe.

Commercial farmers who produce the nation's food are hardy, realistic, resilient, cautious and adaptable. They are a precious national asset and their views on land reform should be taken seriously.

Any programme for the redistribution of rural land should begin with the strengths that are inherent in South Africa's land system. These include a strong commercial farming sector which employs huge numbers of people and produces for the country and for export.

On many farms these days, reasonable wages are provided, as are housing, primary health care and schooling. Farms are a safety net for poverty in the countryside, which protect society's most vulnerable: extended families, widows, pensioners and single mothers. And our modern system of human rights and labour legislation now applies to agriculture.

We must harness and transform these advantages, not discard them. But the commercial farmers who have created this system have serious concerns about the kind of land reform that is being implemented by Minister Derek Hanekom's department.

Hanekom appears to ignore rather than facilitate the inevitable process of urbanisation. As the rural population decreases, the Land Ministry should encourage an end to migrant labour and facilitate stable family settlement in the cities. At present the land reform efforts in the Weenen area look to be a perpetuation of bantustan solutions which will extend rural slums and reinforce, rather than challenge, tribal forms of land control.

If he really wants to promote development and care for the poor, the minister must recognise that the poorest of the poor reside in communal areas of the old homelands. He needs to find a formula that will persuade chiefs to give up their hold on the land, where the major thrust to establish freehold title and viable commercial farming should be.

Land reform should also not destabilise commercial farming and the rights of property owners by talking about moratoriums on dismissals that lead to the eviction of labourers. Fair dismissals in terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and subject to appeal from the Agricultural Labour Court are basic to effective commercial operations.

Compensation and alternative accommodation can be negotiated in these forums. But by his attempts to deduce a land or tenure right from a simple labour contract, Hanekom is reversing South Africa into the feudalism of the Middle Ages or Czarist Russia.

The only way forward for rural land reform is to concentrate on developing and placing on freehold land a class of emerging black commercial farmers — and established white farmers will do all they can to help that process.

Graham McIntosh is a farmer in the Weenen area and a former MP for the Democratic Party

measures' from ANC

(3) 31/3-6/4/95
and excluded people who were moved by various betterment schemes that were conducted in the homelands. It also focused only on people moved in the post-1948 period.

Recently, anthropologist Chris de Wet has calculated that seven million victims is a more accurate figure — but the truth is that we just do not know the true extent of post-1913 social engineering in the countryside.

More importantly, it would be a mistake to assume that the victimised communities remain as homogeneous and identifiable groups capable of

demanding unitary pieces of land. The land claims process is likely to be contested, conflictive and much lengthier than the five year period allowed for.

The most likely beneficiaries of the restitution laws are victims of "black spot" removals. These are relatively coherent communities for whom removals were an event marked by the arrival of government trucks and bulldozers which destroyed their homes and dumped them in the homelands.

But for large numbers of people forced removal was a more subtle, ongoing and chronic process. Millions of former sharecroppers and labour tenants saw land rights being eroded as farmers issued some family members with *trekpasses* while allowing others to remain. Many people were moved twice or more as labour tenancy was gradually phased out and eventually outlawed.

The restitution process demands that coherent groups of beneficiaries be identified. This poses two questions: what is a community and who decides? Frequently, the victims of forced removals lack cohesion and have been dispersed over a wide geographical area. Our countryside is a mosaic of overlapping claims which could choke the restitution process.

The land affairs ministry has pointed out that those who do not qualify for restitution can join the redistribution programme. Where land claims fail, people will be channelled through this second course of the reform strategy.

The central role of the market in the redistribution scheme reflects the role that the World Bank played in the development of South Africa's land reform policies. Throughout the Third World, the spread of markets through this kind of ideological interference has made large numbers of people

increasingly vulnerable. Experience in other parts of the world demonstrates that the extension of private property accelerates class differences and consolidates a class of small but rich peasant farmers. Although Hanekom's department is trying to reform credit institutions, this is a long way off and the banks are more likely to support black farmers who own private property than those who live on communal land.

This is likely to create the kind of "bimodal" situation that exists in the commercial agrarian sector of most countries in southern Africa — a core of efficient white farmers with a new smallholder class of rich black peasants added on, which grows wealthy while the majority of rural people remain marginalised.

Despite the dynamic way in which Hanekom and his team are approaching the massive challenges of land reform in this country, one cannot help but think that when the year 1999 approaches, the ANC will be looking at the more radical measures the minister alluded to in his recent talk to the farmers.

Dr Richard Levin is a land researcher in the department of sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand



Looking for a solution: President Nelson Mandela paid a flying visit to Weenen to help resolve the land conflict

PHOTOGRAPH: RAJESH JANTALA

Beyond Highlands

FM 31/3/95

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Seven years — that's all the time that's been bought for drought-ridden Gauteng by the development of the R14bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

Now urgent investigations have begun into major schemes to supplement the project. With the first water only due to be pumped to the province in 1998, water experts say the Lesotho project will barely cater for the province's needs until 2005.

Department of Water Affairs & Forestry officials say it is of the "utmost im-

1,2bn m³ of water a year and involving a larger storage dam and three transfer options: through the Kraai River to the lower Orange (Gariep Dam); the Tugela option (delivery to the Tugela system and transferring the water across the Drakensberg to the Sterkfontein Dam); and the Tsoelike option, delivering the water through the Lesotho project. Any of these options could cost up to R15bn.

Study project manager Johan van Rooyen highlights the importance of the Vaal River



portance" to secure further water supplies for SA's industrial heartland.

One of the options is to extend the Highlands Project by a number of dams, tunnels and pumping schemes at a cost estimate of R5,2bn (1994 prices).

Results of a R30m pre-feasibility study involving three consortiums of consulting engineers will be ready by July. Commissioned by Water Affairs, the study is investigating other potential source catchments: the Tugela, the Orange and the Mzimvubu in the Eastern Cape.

Schemes under consideration are:

- Three large new dams in the southern tributaries of the Tugela (the Mooi, Bushmans and Little Tugela rivers), including a 125 m high dam, using spare capacity in the Drakensberg pump storage scheme to transfer about 470m³ of additional water (at a cost of about R2,6bn) a year to the Vaal system;
- A large dam (140 m-150 m high) on the Buffalo River, with other dams on the Sundays and Tugela rivers which would yield about 650m³ a year at a cost of about R5,7bn;
- A choice of two options to transfer water from the Orange River across the Free State: the R4,7bn Caledon Cascades Scheme, using a series of 20 weirs to be built on the Caledon to reverse the flow of the river; and the R5,3bn Goedemoed option, using 466 km of canals and 31 km of tunnels; and
- The Mzimvubu scheme, providing up to

augmentation planning study: "Apart from Gauteng, where water demand is growing at about 6% a year, Eastern Transvaal's power stations, the Free State gold fields, the North-West Province gold fields and the Northern Cape agricultural holdings all depend on the Vaal system for their water supplies. While we are looking at various options to cut down and save on water use, this would not make any major impact and we, therefore, urgently have to investigate alternative sources which can start delivering by 2005/2006."

He notes that there are large potential benefits for the source catchments, as the projects offer the opportunity for joint development which will supply water needs in those areas. To ensure that these benefits and other consequences are identified, the department has embarked on a major public involvement programme, through the study teams, down to grassroots levels.

Decisions are expected relatively quickly. After receiving the pre-feasibility studies, Water Affairs is likely to appoint consultants to start full feasibility studies by the second half of this year.

AGRICULTURE

(3)
FM 31/3/95
A mixed blessing

The rain that fell over most of the country last week may be too little, too late.

But for sugar farmers in Natal, the downpour brought relief. Their crops, which still have a month to grow before the onset of cooler weather, have been spared, says Hans Hackmann of the Cane Growers' Association. Harvesting will start in the first week of May. "Mainly, the rain prevented root deterioration and this bodes well for the 1995-1996 crop," he says. The sugar cane year starts on April 1.

The crop for the 1994-1995 year yielded 1,667 Mt of sugar and forecasts estimate the 1995-1996 crop at about 1,6 Mt.

The rains should also improve dry bean crops in Natal which are still maturing, says Hanno Krüger of the Dry Bean Producers' Organisation. However, in the Eastern Transvaal, the rain has either ruined dry bean crops or lowered their quality. ■

'Great potential in farmers' trek'

3 CT 3/4/95

PRETORIA: Freedom Front leader General Constand Viljoen said yesterday the plan to settle South African farmers in Sub-Saharan states could provide great advantages provided this was soundly planned in collaboration with host governments.

He said this after returning from Zaire on Friday where he and Agricultural Union presidents of the Transvaal and Free State, Mr Dries Bruwer and Dr Piet Gous met President Mabuto Sese Seko.

He described the visit as a success. "Interest on Zaire's side was very strong. The possibility of such aid was welcomed.

"We have decided to follow up the visit with detailed technical research on the nature and extent of the project. As Zaire is a big country, we will also give attention to those areas which have the best production possibilities," he said.

Matters to be investigated would include marketing problems, finance and problems within Zaire, such as currency instability and democratisation. — Sapa

Urban use to be reduced by 20%

Households will face water curbs from May

■ STAFF REPORTER

Households will bear the brunt of urban water restrictions to be imposed by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Professor Kader Asmal from May 1.

The restrictions, a result of the low water level in the Vaal Dam, will affect all areas drawing water from the Vaal River system, Asmal said last week.

Asmal said a 20% restriction would be imposed on all urban water use.

This would be made up of a 30% savings on domestic use and 10% on industrial use.

"The intention is to target mainly garden irrigation as well as leakage and wasteful practices, but not to curtail industrial production at the cost of water

supply," Asmal said.

It would be left to the water boards to achieve these savings through specific measures yet to be announced.

"Savings measures may include a ban on hosepipes and the introduction of sliding scales where people will pay a reasonable amount for basic water use but more for excessive water use," he said.

Restrictions on water drawn for irrigation purposes started at the weekend, marking the beginning of the irrigation water year.

"Supplies are limited, demand is rising and recurrent droughts are a feature of our climate. Water conservation should become a way of life for all of us," Asmal said.

He added that the restriction

showed the importance of the recently announced National Water Conservation Campaign.

Farmers might have to face a 40% water restriction, but no formal decision had yet been made on this proposal.

Apart from Gauteng, other areas including Standerton, Kimberley and the Free State Goldfields would also be affected as they draw water from the dams in the main stream of the Vaal River.

The restrictions would also apply to users from pipelines that serve Eskom power stations on the Highveld region of the Eastern Transvaal.

The situation at the Vaal River would be closely monitored and reviewed in September, Asmal said.

③ star 3/4/95

Water cuts to start May 1

3) ~~1995~~

Sowetan
3/4/95

By Mokgadi Pela

AREAS dependent on the Vaal Dam for water supply will soon experience restrictions, despite recent showers.

According to a statement issued by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Mr Kader Asmal, the cuts follow very low rainfall during the past summer and the extremely dry years of 1991 to 1993.

Domestic users will be restricted to consuming 30 percent less, industrial users to 10 percent less and irrigation to

General operations manager of the Rand Water Board Mr Attie van Rensburg said the recent rains appeared to have missed the Vaal Dam catchment area, thereby necessitating restrictions. Despite the rain, the Vaal Dam was still only 15.3 percent full.

The statement went on to say the Vaal River did not only cover the Gauteng. The restrictions will be in force throughout the supply area. All towns that draw water from the dams in the main stream of the Vaal River or from the Vaal Dam itself, as far upstream as Standerton and Kimberley, will be affected.

40 percent less.

He said water restrictions for irrigation purposes were instituted from April 1, while cuts for urban and industrial use will commence on May 1.

Asmal said the restrictions demonstrated the importance of the recently announced National Water Conservation Campaign.

"Supplies are limited, demand is rising and recurrent droughts are a feature of our climate. Water conservation should become a way of life for us."

Furrowed brows

(3) ~~(4)~~

FM 7/4/95

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom has targeted 30% of SA's farm land for redistribution in his reform programme. But the notion that thousands of small farmers could, within the next five years, lead self-sustaining and even profitable lives on this land, is not as simple as it seems.

Besides suffering from recurring droughts which have caused crop failures and forced many long-established commercial farmers off the land, only about 16% (16m ha) of SA's land is considered potentially arable. This land produces most of SA's basic food and export crops.

The rest consists mostly of low-potential, semi-desert and desert Karoo, Bushmanland and Kalahari areas, mountainous terrain and low-rainfall bushveld areas where land spreads of up to 10 000 morgen are needed to justify commercial farming with sheep, goats and game.

Dire water shortages and a lack of high-potential land therefore relegates most of SA's geographical terrain to a low-potential, low-yield agricultural character.

Standard Bank's quarterly *AgriReview* adds a voice of warning to those considering hasty subdivision of land to accommodate thousands of prospective new landowners.

"To ensure a successful land reform programme, monitoring of long-term agricultural production as well as living standards is needed. This will entail a precise focus, not only on hectareage, but also of income-generating potential and actual income of land after redistribution. An exclusive focus on land area alone could obscure the issues of income generation, efficiency and employment on which a successful, long-term land reform policy must depend," the report says.

Underlining the point that income generation, employment and improving living standards also have to be looked at in "a land reform programme which aims to do more than redistribute hectares," *AgriReview* compares the effect of redistributing 30% of relatively high versus 30% of relatively low-potential agricultural land, based on a 1992 survey of agriculture by the Central Statistical Service.

In both cases, about 24,3m ha would be redistributed. The high-potential land had an average value of R1 163/ha, an estimated net farm income potential of R180/ha, a required farm size of only 33 ha, and could

settle 729 000 families. But the low-potential land has an average value of only R78/ha, estimated income of R12/ha, required farm size of 500 ha and could settle a mere 48 600 families. This is based on a "poverty level" income requirement of R6 000 a year for a hypothetical family of five adults.

The redistribution benefits of high-potential land therefore include: up to 15 times more people could be settled; and fixed costs in servicing resettled farmers would be spread more efficiently on the smaller land area, increasing the success potential of land redistribution using high-potential land.

But the cost of redistribution would be higher. Resettling on high-potential land would carry a bill of R28,3bn, compared

low-potential land could be fiscally possible but might not meet the goal of sustainable farming, given certain technical limitations. Ultimately fiscal limitations and agricultural potential will determine the balance between redistributing high- and low-potential land," *AgriReview* says.

So, while the cost of land redistribution is one factor, another is the efficiency of land use.

Efficiency is defined as "the units of output generated per unit of resource input," which includes land, water, labour and capital. And in SA, much of the family labour that might be used productively on the land has already migrated to the cities, creating "a scarcity of family labour for small-scale farming in many rural areas."

Apart from these social, fiscal and agricultural factors, *AgriReview* says "economies of size" (which also indicates the ability to produce food cheaply) play a major role in determining the efficiency of land use in a redistribution policy. And here, "the principle of increasing efficiency with increasing farm size is clearly demonstrated" by official agricultural surveys, which show that "larger farms produce food relatively cheaper than smaller units."

At the same time, rural welfare studies show that inadequate farm size was the biggest cause of efficiency losses, with over-exploitation of resources and an inability to retain earnings or to expand the size of farming operations holding back progress.

"Small units which are not economically viable may also require constant State support to ensure their survival," adds *AgriReview*.

The report quotes official statistics which show that, in 1991, 38% of all larger income commercial farming units in SA employed about 72% of commercial agricultural labourers and contributed 88% of total agricultural gross income. And farm sizes were, on average, almost 60% larger for this minority of successful farming operations, compared with the remaining 62% of commercial farmers in SA. Employees were paid, on average, 64% more than their colleagues on the smaller units.

Clearly, land redistribution is no simple "fix" for real or perceived injustices of the past and has to be administered with care and circumspection to prevent damaging a vitally important sector of the economy.



Hanekom . . . land reform under attack

with R1,9bn for low-potential land. And the huge government expenditure would "have to be justified by sustainable agricultural earnings and food security."

"Fiscal limitations would prohibit a redistribution programme using only high-potential land. Redistributing using only

Deadline for comment on agricultural Bill extended

(3) BO 714/95
 The Agriculture Department had extended the deadline for submission of comment on the Draft Marketing of Agricultural Products Bill to next Thursday, director-general Frans van der Merwe said yesterday. The initial deadline for comment on the Bill, which was published a month ago, was Monday.

Reaction to the Bill has been mixed, with many commentators calling for further debate. Tiger Oats has joined a number of agricultural organisations in calling on government to rewrite the Bill.

Tiger Oats executive director Hamish McBain said the Bill should be taken back to the drawing board. "It is not enough to tamper with a few aspects (of marketing) only."

Premier group economist David Frost called for "a far more inclusive debate on the future of agricultural marketing".

LOUISE COOK

Land and Agricultural Policy Centre agricultural researcher Brendon Bayley said the Agriculture Department should initiate "an open series of meetings between all role players".

SA Futures Exchange (Safex) agricultural markets division spokesman John Wixley said: "Most of the affected parties such as Safex, small-scale farmers and consumer groups were not included in the drawing up of the Bill."

SA Agriculture Union spokesman Hans van der Merwe said the SAAU generally supported the Bill. The SAAU had been included in drawing up the Bill.

But the National African Farmers Union (Nafu) said the Bill failed because it still provided for the imposition of levies on farmers. "Levies should only be paid on a voluntary basis," said Nafu GM Steve Mokwena.



Asmal describes himself as a liberal and a humanist. His religion, he says, is a private matter "but there is a vast spiritual motivation to everything I do."

This kind of passion led him, he says, to change the whole policy direction of his department within two days of taking office.

"Community water, conservation, equity — those are the objectives. I don't use buzz words like transparency, but I want to involve the public.

"We didn't publish our white paper in the Government Gazette. We launched a vast conservation campaign in a pamphlet called *You and Your Water Rights* and distributed 13 000 copies countrywide.

"We put up ideas. For the first time we suggested that the environment itself should be given a share of water. Should the law lay down how much? At present, 50 percent of water is used by farming, 12 percent by domestic users, four percent by mining.

REALISTIC IDEALIST . . . Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal believes that water must be evenly shared. Picture: TERRY SHEAN

Kader Asmal: Making love not war over water

ST 9/4/95

will have to announce sanctions against certain people in terms of expulsions, suspensions, fines. And, of course, the law must take its course."

KADER Asmal was born in Stanger, Natal, on October 8 1934. He remembers a conventional upbringing in a large, argumentative family — "the nearest equivalent I can think of is a Jewish family in the Bronx".

He describes his father as a failed shopkeeper "because during the war he gave too much credit to

white housewives whose husbands wore the orange flash on their shoulders.

"I remember the local white attorney said, 'you must send them a final notice, you must bankrupt them'. But my father was so angry, he said, 'they are fighting your war and you want to send them to Carey Street!'

"So we were a poor family. All he could do was give us the opportunity to go to school — you came first you got half-a-crown, you came second you got two shillings, you came third you got a kick in the backside."

He traces his awakening in politics to an encounter

with Chief Albert Luthuli, former president of the ANC and "a towering figure", who was banished to the Stanger area.

But he also remembers, at 13, proposing a motion in the local Muslim Cricket Club, that it throw open its doors to everybody.

By the age of 18 he was reading Harold Laski's *The Grammar of Politics* and the complete works of Winston Churchill "in my Angophile period".

Asmal became a teacher, taking his BA through Unisa, and set off for Britain in 1959 to study for a law degree at the London School of Economics.

It was the beginning of an exile lasting almost 35 years, 27 of which he spent in Dublin, lecturing at Trinity College in human rights, labour and international law and ending up as Dean of Arts.

IN 1963 he helped establish the British and the Irish anti-apartheid movements. He was called to the Bar in London and Dublin.

"People forget that I couldn't come home for years, for a start, because I had a white spouse. I married an English girl, Louise Parkinson. But I was also

part of the resistance, part of the underground.

"My wife found it hard when we first arrived back. She was the first secretary of the AAM in London, and in 1990 most of the features of the society she had been fighting against were still in place.

"The country was much worse than when I left it, because of the Group Areas Act. Nowhere, except perhaps in the Jewish ghettos of Nazi Europe, have people been so physically, spatially, geographically, separated. It's still an appalling problem that will take more than a generation to deal with."

'Do we have too many swimming pools? I don't want to make a judgment. But we are one of the few countries in the world that uses tap water for swimming pools. You must draw conclusions from that. Nor do we regulate the use of wasteful sprinklers.

"If people want pools they must pay for the water. We must consider recycling, desalination, better use of storm water, even the tank in the garden with the pipe from the roof.

"Trees use water, but afforestation makes money, provides jobs, and is at least regulated by licence. Sugar cane uses twice as much water. We need to preserve our food production. But we're a drought-ridden country and cannot possibly give permanent relief every time there's a scarcity."

His idealism, he insists, is tempered with realism.

"I want a world, as the author Gabriel Garcia Marquez said, where the poor are happy. It does not mean people must accept deprivation, but that the effects of deprivation are remedied.

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How the Nats helped farmers make peace on their land

3 (223)
ST9/4/95

By CYRIL MADLALA

A RURAL black community in northern Kwazulu Natal, which once defied the National Party's plan to uproot it, has bought land from neighbouring white farmers in an experiment that could be a lesson to the rest of South Africa.

And it was the NP that made it possible.

On a windswept corner of Cornfields near Estcourt black and white farmers, once bitterly opposed, now view the future with optimism.

The Cornfields and Thembalihle communities held a celebration a few weeks ago to mark the acquisition of more than 8 500ha from the white farmers.

Derek Hanekom, Minister of Land Affairs, was chief guest. But it was the NP, whose Department of Land and Regional Affairs implemented The Provision of Certain Land for Settlement Act in 1993, that gave the community a chance to stay on its land and expand its farms.

The legislation was aimed at promoting "the accessibility of land to all members of the population". Deprived communities were required to put down a five percent deposit of the purchase price, to be met with an 80 percent government

grant, and a 15 percent loan to be paid off over five years.

But convincing people such as Cornfields' leader Simon Mchunu to pay for the land was not easy.

"Older members of the community asked why they should buy land from the whites when the whites had not bought it," he said.

Finally, it was agreed each family would pay a deposit of between R330 and R450. The loan came to between R25 and R35 a month, while the government's commitment was R4,9-million of the R6,1-million total. A trust representing landowners, tenants, headmen, women and youths collects the loan repayments.

Mr Mchunu is aware that things could have turned out for the worse.

For many years black and white farmers regarded each other as unwanted neighbours as the black farmers, who lived under the threat of forced removal, faced dwindling resources on 900ha of freehold property.

The relationship deteriorated as people flocked to the area following evictions of tenant farmers and workers from white farms in Estcourt and Weenen in the 60s and 70s, and the communities began increasingly to rely on the white farms for grazing, water, wood and thatching grass.

In 1993 the Association for Rural Advancement and community negotiating teams started talks with the white farmers.

The farmers indicated their willingness to release land if they were compensated, and on condition that it was not used for "uncontrolled squatting".

It was then that the NP passed legislation that was, for once, welcomed by the Cornfields community.

And the white farmers are happy to help the people of the two communities. Egon Fortmann, a farmer who sold them 700ha, said the land deal bode well for peaceful co-existence between blacks and whites.



CROSSING BARRIERS ... farmer Egon Fortmann and Simon Mchunu
Picture: RANJITH KALLY

Duarte praises role of police forums

THE reopening of Soweto police stations was indicative of the important role community police forums had to play in building effective police services, Gauteng safety and security minister Jessie Duarte said yesterday.

Duarte was commenting on the resumption of duties by members of the SA Police Union (Sapu) — union members had been on strike over poor working conditions in Soweto — following the promise of a once-off R350 allowance and establishment of a task team to investigate their demands.

The strike had affected only police stations dominated by Sapu. These included Kliptown, Moroka and Jabulani stations, according to police sources.

Duarte said although the forums were primarily communication mechanisms to ensure police were accountable and transparent to the community, the bodies could facilitate reconciliation processes and the building of a firm relationship between police and the community.

By becoming responsibly involved in policing issues, the forums could play an important role in helping to reach jointly acceptable solutions.

Duarte said, however, she believed disgruntled policemen would remain "anxious" until they had been informed of the percentage increase they were to receive.

She said the "hold-up" was coming from the public service's central bargaining chamber, and that the ministry was putting pressure on the chamber to "take cognisance of the crises we face".

"If crime prevention is a priority, then the people who carry out that function must be given special consideration.

"They, after all, put their lives on the line," Duarte said.

Meanwhile, it was business as usual in stations under the control of the ANC-

linked Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) such as Meadowlands and Orlando police stations.

Earlier on Saturday, police spokesman Lt-Col Henriette Bester said only Flying Squad and Internal Stability Unit members were attending to complaints in Soweto and confirmed a National Defence Force presence in the area, Sapa reports.

A statement from Popcru condemned Sapu's strike action and called on its members not to be involved in "this irresponsible action of Sapu".

Popcru said it was involved in solving the problem of affirmative action and employment within the police force. It accused Sapu of not addressing such issues but in trying only to discredit the present government.

RENEE GRAWITZKY reports that about 1 000 Sapu members marched to the Gauteng legislature on Friday in support of demands on wages, payment of overtime and the establishment of a central bargaining forum.

At the start of the march, Sapu official Peter Holmes said the maintenance of law and order would be undermined further if Sapu embarked on a national strike because only a 3% increase was granted by government to the police force as with other public sector workers.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz announced on Saturday that the once-off taxable R350 would be paid at the end of May to all police members below the rank of colonel.

Fivaz said that police management and the police labour unions were still negotiating with the government on several other issues related to pay and allowances.

DEBORAH FINE and
NOMAVENDA MATHIANE



Members of the SA Police Union march to Gauteng safety and security minister Jessie Duarte's office on Friday, demanding higher salaries. Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

Commission set to hear land claims in public

EXPECTED public interest in land restitution cases has prompted the Restitution of Land Rights Commission to consider throwing open its meetings on land claims to the media and public. (3)

The commission has invited comment from the public about its proposed guidelines, which were released at the weekend. These include the call for greater transparency in land claim matters.

The deadline for comment will be April 21.

But commission secretary Daan van der Westhuizen said it reserved the right to close committee meetings to the public where it was felt a

LOUISE COOK

matter could be "more conveniently or advantageously dealt with".

"We have nothing to hide. The proposal is aimed at transparency," Van der Westhuizen said.

The commission also proposed that, should it fail to establish a settlement between parties, it would advise the chief land claims commissioner on the appointment of a special mediator.

Such a person could be a member of the commission, an outside party or anyone acceptable to all parties, the commission said.

Van der Westhuizen said, however,

that the appointment of special mediators would be a last resort.

About 3 400 claims were already awaiting mediation, he said. These would get attention when the process started on May 1.

"We hope to have the restitution process fully wrapped up within five years. Claims will be received for a period of three years from May 1."

Meanwhile, the Judicial Service Commission, which would handle cases the Land Rights Commission could not settle through mediation, has said that, by the end of this month, it would nominate candidates for the position of president of the Land Claims Court and two judges.

Cape Town in line for big councillor cut

□ *Ideal could be as low as 50*

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

CAPE Town city council — which is set to become the Central sub-structure of the new Cape metropolitan area — is likely to shrink in size after the local election on November 1.

This is the gist of a report on proposals for the number of seats and wards in a new sub-structure.

The report, drafted by the city planner's department, suggests that the ideal number of councillors in the new order would be in the region of 50 to 70.

This is considerably less than the current 98 councillors who sit on the transitional council for Cape Town.

The report notes that in order to demarcate ward boundaries, it would first be necessary to decide on how many seats there should be on a new council.

The seats would then be split on the basis of 40 percent proportional representation, and 60 percent wards, indicating how many wards there should be in a particular council area.

A clause in the Local Government Transition Act requires that half the wards should be in a former black area and half in the non-black local authority area.

Therefore, if Cape Town were to limit itself to 70 seats, this would mean that wards in the non-black lo-

cal authority areas would consist of 22 330 voters, and 7 168 in the black local authority areas.

Other factors in determining council sizes would be the cost of remunerating councillors.

For a council of 70 members, the cost would be R2,6 million a year.

With councils of 80 seats and more, the minimum cost would exceed R3 million a year.

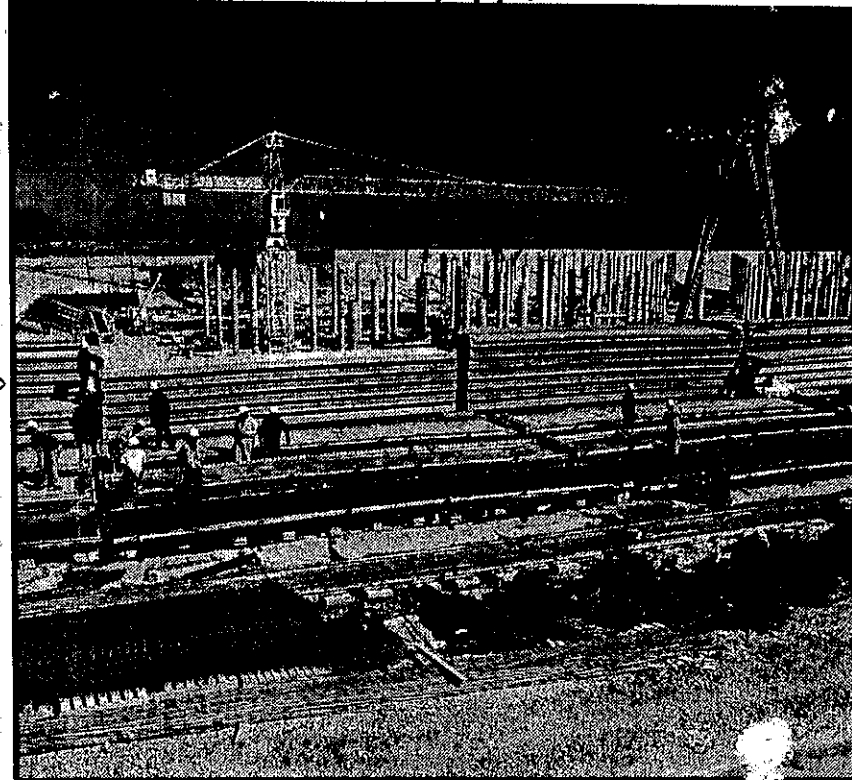
The report also notes that the larger a council, the more administratively cumbersome it can become.

"Larger councils could also mean pressures to have lengthy debates or have time limits imposed on debates, which could lead to delayed or ineffective decision making.

"Bigger councils also imply bigger committees. It is generally considered that an optimal size for committees to function effectively is between five to eight people," the report says.

The city planner has proposed that a working team be set up to draw up ward boundary options which would then be considered by the joint executive committees which will come into being once the new municipalities have been announced.

The joint executive committees will be tasked with bringing about political amalgamation between local authorities within 104 days of the local government minister's proclamation on the new boundaries.



MEN AT WORK: Construction workers busy themselves with building the second biggest concrete reservoir of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

Record that does hold water

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

A HUGE concrete reservoir, the second largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere, is fast taking shape and could help ease Cape Town's water problems by next year.

The Faure reservoir is being built on the slopes above Somerset West and is part of the Rivieronderend/Berg/Eerste River scheme supplying potable water to the city and neighbouring towns.

The 30-month project — for the Cape Town City Council — will cost R43 million and will have a storage capacity of 640 megalitres.

Rod Stallebrass, general manager of Concor Construction which is build-

ing the reservoir, said the job was one of the biggest single construction projects currently under way in the Peninsula, and had created jobs for 200 people for two years.

"We will use more than 40 000 cubic metres of concrete and are covering an area of 64 000 square metres. The reservoir walls will be 15 metres high.

"The whole reservoir will be covered with a concrete roof consisting of pre-cast, pre-stressed beams which will be held in place by concrete columns and the perimeter wall.

"We expect to complete this project four months inside the 30-month contract period and hope to start storing the drinking water supplies of the greater Cape Peninsula early next year," Mr Stallebrass said.

Spend your penny, save the world

(3)

Waterless loo on market

AR 11/4/19S

JENNY VIALI
Staff Reporter

WITH every flush of the loo we wash away 11 litres of water.

Everyone flushes about five times a day and there are about two million people using waterborne sewerage in the greater Cape Town area.

That's 110 million litres of clean, expensively purified water going round the bend every day.

Clearly, with predictions of water crises looming, we'll have to look at alternatives.

A new concept on the market is the Enviro Loo composting sanitation system, developed by a biochemist, which uses no water, is hygienic, environmentally friendly, uses no chemicals and has minimal operational and maintenance costs.

Diane Salters of Simon's Town has installed one at her house on a trial basis.

The lavatory is a closed system, she says, and works by separating liquid and solid waste. Ambient heat and adequate ventilation, through two ventilation pipes, converts the waste to a dried compost-like matter. A wind funnel attached to the ventilation pipes aids aeration.

The dried compost, which would be removed once every 18 months for a family of six to eight, can be used to grow vegetables or in the garden. It is

taken out of the access hole, which has a bolted down cover.

The good news is that unlike pit latrines, there are no smells. "Smells get drawn down and out. Because it's well aerated, it shouldn't smell at all," says Diane.

And because its a closed system (it's a moulded black bin made from recycled plastic), there is no fear of leakage as with pit latrines, which have been found to be responsible for widespread contamination of valuable groundwater resources.

The toilet can easily be built into a house but a portion of the unit, including the aeration pipes, must be outside. A 1,4-metre deep pit is needed for the unit.

The Enviro Loo costs about R2 300.

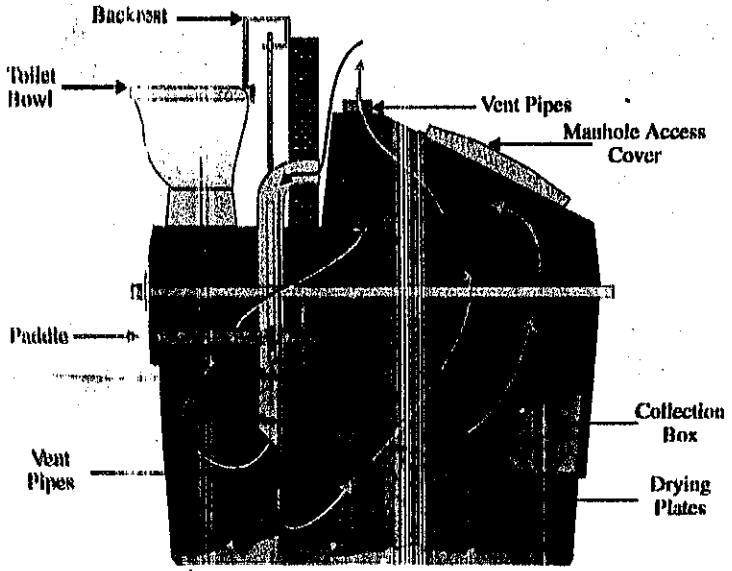
Other sanitation systems, such as pit latrines and the bucket system, are expensive to maintain, says Diane. A small packet of compost activator used when the toilet is set up is all that's needed for the Enviro Loo.

But bear in mind that if there is waterborne sewage in an area, you are bound by law to use it. And until legislation is modified to take account of the environment, it may be difficult to get a permit for a waterless toilet.

It is, however, ideally suited for new developments, squatter camps, remote and rural areas, holiday cottages and trails.



FRIENDLY LOO: Part of the environmentally friendly toilet for clearing the compost.



NO WATER: Waste falls into the bin on to drying plates. An efficient ventilation system means that air flows into the container and through the waste. As the waste decomposes, dried matter falls from the grid onto drying plates and towards the collection box. Because of the low pressure in the container, no odours escape through the toilet pan.

Housing subsidies for 77 000 approved to date

Star 12/4/95 (12)

■ STAFF REPORTER

The Gauteng Housing Board has approved 77 000 applications for subsidised housing, amounting to R818-million, Gauteng Housing MEC Dan Mofokeng said yesterday.

Speaking at an Allied Bank/Smart Centre housing function in Johannesburg, he said: "The national Minister of Housing, Sankie Nkondo, recently disclosed in the Senate that SA's urban housing backlog is close to 1,5-million units, with the worst backlog being 566 853 in the Gauteng province.

"In order to redress this problem, the RDP policy intends to provide 1-million housing units over the next five years."

Mofokeng stressed, however, that the housing industry would have to make a contribution towards the massive housing backlog and job creation through labour-intensive projects with low import content.

There should also be a visible redistribution of income and community stabilisation, which implied a drastic reduction of crime.

Mofokeng said the commercial sectors of the economy must be harnessed through several key strategies.

These included the stabilisation of the housing environment through a national and provincial campaign, aimed at resumption of payment for goods and services.

Boost for small farmers (3)

Star 12/4/95

The Vulamehlo Project, an initiative aimed at educating and training small farmers, was launched at the Rand Easter Show yesterday.

About 2 000 farmers were bused in from around the country to see exhibits at the Vulamehlo (eye-opener) project, an initiative of the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society.

The project places an emphasis on assisting farmers in in-

creasing productivity and the quality of their products for greater profits.

A visitor at the launch was King Goodwill Zwelithini who had six of his cattle on display.

"Vulamehlo is about learning to work together in the interest of agriculture and our country," said Dr Stroebel Hofmeyr, chief director of farming development in the Department of Agriculture. — Staff Reporters.

rians and vehicles ov

3
Seremane
19/4/95

Land claims addressed

By Mzimasi Ngudle

CLAIMS for restitution of land rights may be lodged from May 1 this year, according to National Land Claims commissioner Mr Joe Seremane.

Seremane said yesterday people did not have to wait for the May 5 promulgation of the final rules for claiming restitution of land rights.

Residents of Gauteng, Northern and Eastern Transvaal and North-West can get copies of the rules and claim forms by writing to Private Bag X833, Pretoria 0001.

Free State and Eastern Cape residents can do so at Box 1375, East London 5200. Western and Northern Cape residents at Private Bag X9159, Cape Town, 8000 and KwaZulu-Natal residents at Private Bag X9000, Maritzburg, 3200.

The forms can also be obtained from the national office at 523 Church Street, Box 56720, Arcadia, 0004. The telephone is (012) 341-7900.

but to propose measures to balance the skewed relationship between tenants and property owners brought about by a history of apartheid legislation.

- (2) Apart from the investigation I believe that when dealing with cases of eviction, a local option approach still offers the best solution. In this regard Government won't intervene except to provide the necessary facilitation and support in order to implement the solutions reached between local land owners and tenants. I wish to clearly state that I don't regard all land owners to be abusive of the rights they have in land. In the majority of local option initiatives facilitated by my Department, landowners have proved themselves to be co-operative and in support of finding amicable solutions. It is, however, a process necessitating much time and effort on both the side of land owners and landless people. All interested parties have to be engaged in open and frank discussions in which principles of fairness, mutual recognition and respect are central to a successful outcome.

Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, arising from the answer given by the hon the Minister of Housing, I would firstly like to apologise to her for addressing her as a Deputy Minister.

I would actually like to have addressed this follow-up question to the Minister himself. He is one of those communists who usually hide their incompetence behind apartheid. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon member has to address his question to the person authorised to answer it.

†Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, my question to the hon the Minister of Land Affairs is whether he has any respect for property rights.

The MINISTER OF HOUSING: Madam Speaker, the Minister is not here, but I can assure the hon member that he has respect for property rights.

†Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, you can see the problem I have with the follow-up questions. I would have liked to put a second question to the Minister of Land Affairs. I wanted to ask whether he . . .

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon member is aware who is answering the questions. If he wishes to put a question to the person authorised to answer, he may do so. If he does not intend to do so, will he please resume his seat.

Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, with the greatest respect, that is why I suggested that we let this question stand over. I want to ask a second follow-up question.

†Does the Minister of Land Affairs have the courage to discuss this matter with the SA Agricultural Union? [Interjections.]

Mr J H MOMBERG: Stupid! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF HOUSING: Madam Speaker, I shall refer the hon member's question to the relevant Minister. [Interjections.]

Implementation of pilot land reform programme: statutory provisions

*5. Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister of Land Affairs:

(3) Hansard 5/4/95

(1) In terms of what statutory and/or other provisions does he intend implementing the pilot land reform programme, with specific reference to the concept of land redistribution;

(2) whether he or his Department intends expropriating any land; if so, on what basis; if not, how will land be acquired for the purpose of implementing the programme;

(3) whether it is the intention to redistribute 30% of the land in the Republic within the next four years; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what will be the estimated cost thereof to the taxpayer?

N280E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING (on behalf of the Minister of Land Affairs.):

- (1) The provision of Certain Land for Settlement Act, 1993 (Act No 126 of 1993) provides for the necessary statutory framework, although it is presently under review. The proposed Development Facilitation Bill, which is currently being considered by Government, will also provide an instrument for the allocation and development of land in the rural areas.

- (2) The Department of Land Affairs does not intend to expropriate land for the purpose of implementing the pilot land reform programme. The redistribution of land will be a deemed-driven process whereby persons/groups will be given state assistance in the acquisition of land which is available in the open market and where affected parties have come to an agreement on the sale thereof. The programme will reply on available state land, and land acquired by the beneficiaries through open market or negotiated sale agreements. It does depend on the goodwill and cooperation of all the stakeholders, including landowners, in this momentous effort to create access to land for all.

- (3) The RDP Base Document states that:

The Land Reform Programme, including costing, implementing mechanism and a training programme, must be in place within one year after the elections. The programme must aim to redistribute 30% of agricultural land within the first five years of the programme.

The target amount and period set reflect both the firm commitment by Government to the meaningful redistribution of land in addressing the historical denial of opportunities and access to land. It is also a broad benchmark which can be upwardly or downwardly adjusted depending on the capacity of the programme to effectively use the available limited state resources, mobilise individual and collective equity of beneficiary communities as well as leverage private sector support and assistance. The Land Reform Pilot Programme, which is a first step towards the design and implementation of a comprehensive programme, will test the critical questions and inform us on the appropriate financial and institutional mechanisms and point the way for a successful land reform programme.

The redistribution of land will be achieved not only by means of state assistance and allocation of available state land, but also by the removal of institutional and legal impediments. It is not yet possible to estimate the costs involved. Attention is, however, being given to

determining the long-term financial implications thereof for the exchequer.

The SPEAKER: Order! Are you rising to a supplementary?

Mr A S BEYERS: Madam Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. Is it parliamentary for one member to refer to another member as "stupid"? While Dr Odendaal was speaking, the hon stupid member, Mr Jannie Momber said that . . .

The SPEAKER: Order! Are you contradicting your point of order?

Mr A S BEYERS: Madam Speaker, my point of order is that Mr Momber told the hon member, Dr Odendaal that he was stupid.

Mr J H MOMBERG: I was just being honest! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! I think we have a supplementary question.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Madam Speaker, respectfully, it is evident that it serves no purpose to ask this hon Minister questions about land affairs. However, from this side, we would like to put certain follow-up questions on record and we expect meaningful replies from the relevant Minister. The point of order raised initially was why Ministers nominate other Ministers to answer their questions.

The SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order. If a Minister has nominated someone, this House has to respect the right of the Minister to do so and this House should listen to the answers. The point you wish to make about putting additional questions to the Minister of Land Affairs, I suggest you put them forward at an occasion and arrange with the Whips for the Minister to be present.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Madam Speaker, with respect and on a point of order: Is it not also the right of this House and its members to ask follow-up questions to the relevant Minister at question time on a Wednesday afternoon?

The SPEAKER: Order! It is a right provided those questions arise from the answers that have been given. [Interjections.] I think one would question whether some of the earlier questions which arose about the Minister's personal beliefs did arise out of the answer. If you have a supplementary arising out of the answer you have been given, you may put it.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the following question, arising out of the answer: the sustainability of agriculture and the economic viability of the units envisaged under the pilot programme are key issues. How many such units are envisaged and how does he intend placating the expectations of the millions to whom he offered access to land?

The SPEAKER: Order! You are seeking additional information.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: That is correct, Madam Speaker.

The MINISTER OF HOUSING: Madam Speaker, the hon member should be satisfied that the additional questions being asked will be forwarded to the Minister of Land Affairs. [Interjections.]

Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, may I just refer on a point of order to your ruling a few moments ago regarding the relevance of my supplementary question. I was really ready to put a question to the relevant Minister regarding private property rights, but I knew that it would have served no purpose to ask this hon Minister what her plans were regarding discussions with the SA Agricultural Union.

The SPEAKER: Order! That was not a point of order. In fact, you confirmed the opinion I gave of your questions.

Introduction of free education in tertiary institutions

*6. Prof S S RIPINGA asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) Whether he or his Department intends introducing free education at tertiary institutions; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N281E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) No. The Department does not have the funds to introduce free education at tertiary institutions. There are private benefits for individual students involved and it is therefore policy that students must pay a certain amount for their training/education. This is a universal concept.

- (2) The Minister has already published a statement on this issue in advertisements in the media on March 24 and 26, 1995.

Departmentalisation process in provinces

*7. Prof S S RIPINGA asked the Minister of Education:

Whether his Department is leading the departmentalisation process in all the provinces; if not, why not; if so, what steps have been or are to be taken to co-ordinate this process?

N282E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

According to section 237 of the Constitution, the rationalisation of functions from the national to the provincial level primarily but not exclusively rests with the national Government. The provincial governments, the Commission on Provincial Government, the Public Service Commission and the Provincial Service Commissions are also involved.

The relinquishing institutions in this regard at national level are the Department of Education and Training and the three Education and Culture Services of the former Administrations: House of Assembly, House of Delegates and House of Representatives.

A task team chaired by a senior official of the Department of Education has been established to promote and monitor the process of provincialisation. A committee consisting of the heads of the relinquishing institutions under the chairmanship of the Director-General of Education has also been established to report to a monthly basis on ten critical performance areas. Through these mechanisms the process of provincialisation is being co-ordinated.

Education is the largest single function of the state that is being provincialised, involving about 450 000 employees. It is therefore not possible to provincialise it in an once-off exercise, but as an ongoing process. That is the spirit in which the Department is approaching this matter.

Paper/aluminium product to contain locally recycled material

*8. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether he or his Department intends making it compulsory for suppliers of paper and aluminium products to the Government and Government agencies to ensure that their products contain a fixed percentage of locally recycled material; if not, why not; if so, from what date;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the Government's policy in respect of recycling?

N283E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) No. Such a directive will only be considered at the recommendation or request of a State Department or other institution that has an interest in the matter. However, we are embarking on a process, jointly with the Departments of Trade and Industry and of Public Works, entailing an overall review of the tendering system, in which such possibilities may emerge.
- (2) No.

*9. Mr M F CASSIM—Health. [Question standing over.]

Special permits for bodyguards to carry armament/arms/weapons

*10. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (1) Whether any bodyguards of Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers and certain political office-bearers have special permits to carry armament, arms and/or weapons for which ordinary citizens are unable to obtain firearm licences; if so, (a) in respect of which specified armament, arms or weapons, (b) how many such permits have been issued since 1 May 1994 and (c) why was this provision made in respect of these bodyguards;
- (2) whether any such special permits have been issued to the bodyguards of Executive Deputy President Mbeki permitting them to carry AK47 rifles, Makarov pistols or any other specified armament, arms or weapons; if so, (a) why and (b)

what are the relevant details in regard to the special permits so issued to them?

N285E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (1) No.
 - (a) Not applicable.
 - (b) Not applicable.
 - (c) Not applicable.
- (2) No.
 - (a) Not applicable.
 - (b) Not applicable.

Mr D H M GIBSON: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, would he say that if those bodyguards are carrying those weapons, they are therefore doing so illegally and are not authorised to do so?

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr Speaker, I am not prepared to join in the general habit of making judgment *ad hoc*. If any action is illegal, that will be determined by the courts in the appropriate manner.

Tax revenue from tobacco products/tobacco industry

*11. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

What total amount of revenue was raised from taxes on (a) tobacco products and (b) the industry producing these products in the 1994-95 financial year or the latest specified financial year for which information is available?

N286E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) (i) Excise duty:	1993/94	R1 042,1 million
(ii) Customs duties:	1993/94	R25,3 million
(iii) Import surcharge:	1993/94	R10,8 million
(iv) VAT: Manufacturing industry:	1993/94	R348,9 million
Wholesale trade:	1993/94	R10,5 million
Retail trade:		Not available

Speculators beware

FM 21/4/95

Though government favours demand-driven land reform, property owners who inflate the value of land to "unrealistic" levels in the hope of making a "quick buck" out of the recently launched land reform programme, face tough action, says Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom.

The reform programme is a cornerstone of government policy and an important cog in the RDP machine. It provides mechanisms to restore the rights of people who were forcibly removed and denied land by previous governments.

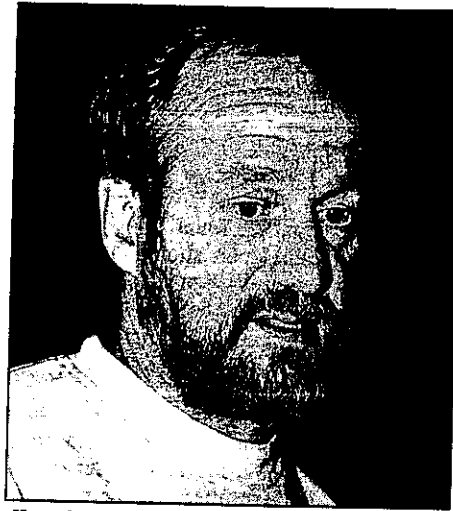
Restitution of rights will be considered within a claims procedure set out in the Restitution of Land Rights Act, which was arguably the most significant legislation approved by parliament last year.

Essentially, the programme will redistribute land to those who need it to improve their quality of life. New owners will be supported by government as they become established.

However, says Hanekom, government recognises the rights of both current and future land owners. There is no intention to disrupt the forces of supply and demand in an open market or to confiscate land. The programme will be "needs driven" and based on the assumption that where private land becomes available and there is a willing buyer and a willing seller, the buyer will be assisted.

But "unscrupulous practices" such as artificially inflating land values will not be tolerated. "If reasonable measures are frustrated and do not succeed, government will

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Hanekom . . . don't artificially inflate land prices

be left with no alternative but to resort to drastic measures."

Hanekom says that there is a generally positive attitude towards the land reform programme. Attacks on it are misguided attempts to undermine government's efforts to distribute land equitably and address rural poverty, overcrowding, resource degradation and fragile peace and stability.

An important source of land for redistribution will be unused State property. But allocating it, says Hanekom, requires transparency within a demand-driven approach. Land must also be seen as an economic resource and not handed out "freely or haphazardly."

So disposal of State land will not be allowed to undermine either the RDP or market forces.

□ Last month, government launched a land reform pilot programme worth R315m, identifying one district in each of the nine provinces for redistribution.

The areas total just over 45 000 ha (*Current Affairs* March 3). Funding will come from the RDP and international donors. ■

ARCJ 21/4/95

(3) (2/2)

Farmers challenged to accept reform

Political Correspondent

COMMERCIAL farmers have been challenged to put aside their fears about land reform and play an active role in helping new small farmers establish themselves in the agricultural industry.

Provincial Minister of Agriculture Lampie Fick told a gathering of West Coast farmers last night: "You must not be

afraid to become involved ... that is far better than becoming involved later *because you are afraid.*"

Speaking at the Sandveld potato farmer-of-the-year dinner at Lambert's Bay, Mr Fick said the involvement of established commercial farmers in the land reform project, and the settlement of new small farmers on the land, would be "decisive" in ensuring its success.

And we cannot afford it to fail," he said.

The farming community, he said, would simply have to accept that there was a new government in power, with its own new policies and priorities.

This should be regarded as an opportunity to become involved constructively.

Land valuers under

(3) SPAN 22/4/95

ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN — State-appointed valuers have allegedly overvalued by 30 percent farms being expropriated for restitution to a dispossessed community — raising fears that the land reform programme could be drained of funds.

The land — five farms near Vryburg in Northern Cape — is being returned to the Takwanganeng community, which was removed from it under apartheid rule in the 1970s.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said the alleged over-valuation had been brought to his attention after an independent study was done on the valuation procedures, including those used to determine the prices of the Takwanganeng farms.

Irresponsible

"The State should never pay more than market value (for expropriated land). It is irresponsible use of taxpayers' money and distorts the prices of land," Hanekom said.

He warned that if the State overpaid for expropriated land, funds available for the land reform programme would not stretch far.

The Minister also raised the matter in a letter to Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe, under whose authority the Land Affairs Board — which appointed valuers — falls.

In his letter, Hanekom said he had been handed a report indicating "serious flaws and anomalies" in the valuation and reviews by the board of the Takwanganeng farms.

He was "alarmed by apparent overpricing of about 30 percent over market value for the Takwanganeng farms by apparent co-operation of the two valuers, to the extent that they each referred to the same selective market information, leaving out pertinent data and arriving at final estimates which differed from

each other by no more than 0,1%".

He asked for "immediate steps" to be taken to correct any malpractices which might have taken place.

"If existing mechanisms are inadequate or fail to detect faults in valuation processes, it might be necessary to set new guidelines and to review the processes of the Land Affairs Board," Hanekom's letter said.

A spokesman for Radebe told the WeekendStar the minister had requested a meeting with Hanekom to discuss the matter.

One of the five farms was sold in 1976 for R62 000. It was sold 10 years later for R280 000. The same farm has now been valued for expropriation at R976 000, while the review appraisal, requested by Hanekom, valued the property at between R650 000 and R750 000.

The independent study of the expropriation of the Takwanganeng farms said two valuers, who were regularly employed by the Land Affairs Board, were appointed to inspect and value the five properties.

"The exact amount of fees (for the valuations) paid to the valuers is unknown. However, a figure of R150 000 was mentioned. It appears that the valuation took two months to complete," the report said.

The two men's valuations were "out of line with prices in the area" and that "the overall tone of the valuations and subsequent recommendations is blatantly sympathetic to the expropriatee".

Lower prices

A search of the registry found two dozen comparable sales in the same area, before the valuation date, at significantly lower prices.

"In at least one case, a comparable property was listed at the price the owner was asking, rather than the price that owner paid to acquire the property about a year earlier."

Hanekom said that since the discovery of the overvaluation, he had insisted on independent assessment of land which was to be expropriated.

Upswing fuelled by agricultural exports

CF(BR) 26/4/95 (3)

By AUDREY D'ANGELO

CAPE BUSINESS EDITOR

Prospects are good for the creation of more than 45 000 jobs in the Western Cape this year, according to the Western Cape Economic Monitor, published quarterly by the development agency Wesgro and the Cape of Good Hope Bank.

It says the upswing in the region seems more broadly based than in the rest of the country, with agricultural exports (mainly wine and fruit), construction projects, reconstruction and development programme projects, a number of industrial niches, tourism and certain service activities providing the momentum.

But the Monitor warns that higher growth rates are leading to

concern about the capacity to deliver higher output and world class service.

"In particular, bottlenecks in the supply of skilled and experienced labour could become serious unless concerted steps are taken to better utilise present facilities and rapidly expand apprentice training."

The Monitor says the situation becomes even more demanding in respect of "mega-projects" such as the 2004 Olympic bid, the new Saldanha steel plant, the restructuring of Mossgas, infrastructure projects, the Capricorn research and industry park, and convention facilities for Cape Town.

It is critical to take all segments of the regional population along in the process of faster growth and wealth creation, the Monitor says.

Give us water — community

(3) RESIDENTS of the 800-strong Klipfontein Mission Station community, near Philippi, are to meet a representative of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry today to discuss the provision of water to the community.

Mr Henry Gouws, a community worker with the Klipfontein Upliftment Society, yesterday said the community had never been provided with amenities, including water, electricity and refuse

(2#) CT 25/4/95
removal, despite attempts to obtain these benefits.

He said that a resident, Mrs Lizzie Titus, 36, and her daughters Annemarie, 6, and Lucretia, 3, died in a fire about 2am on Sunday, and it was felt they could have been rescued if there had been ready access to water.

The residents were entitled to be provided with water, as this had been identified as a "fundamental right", he said. — Staff Reporter

Agricultural sales steady in W Cape

BY MAGGIE ROWLEY

PROPERTY EDITOR

Recent widespread rains are expected to have a positive effect on farm and smallholding sales, says Peter Harrington, general manager of Homenet.

Harrington says that with political confidence rising and violence diminishing, the main dampener on agricultural land sales has been the long period of hot, dry weather.

But Willie Marais, managing director the ERA group, says he expects prices of agricultural land to remain stagnant or even drop in the short term, except for some areas in the Western Cape.

(BR) 26/4/93 ③
Sandy Clark, of Seeff Agricultural Properties, says prices appeared to be remaining stable for farms in the Western Cape.

"However, since the abolition of the finrand, the tendency for sellers is to become a little ambitious and chase away discerning buyers." She says the major interest being shown was for wine farms and estates.

Geoff Calmeyer of Agri-Plan Homenet, which specialises in Natal farm and smallholding sales, confirmed a rise in enquiries for sugar and game farms during rainy periods.

Although the lack of rain has had a negative effect on the market, Calmeyer says February's KwaZulu Natal farm sales were better than the same period last year.

No curbs, but use it sparingly.

STAN 26/9/95
BY JANINE SIMON

Despite an earlier announcement, there will be no household water restrictions from Monday, only an impassioned call for water conservation. (3)

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry wants to sensitise urban residents to water issues and how to reduce consumption. (2)

The department announced last month that it was to impose a 20% restriction on urban water use from May 1, due to the low levels of dams in the Vaal River system.

But bulk supplier Rand Water, with the support of local authorities and the department, has decided not to slap immediate restrictions on end-users, but to educate them on how and why they should be saving water.

If the campaign, which started this week with full-page advertisements in local newspapers, shows no results within two months, stricter controls will be imposed, said Rand Water communications manager Mandy Maepa.

The Vaal Dam is only 16% full and Sterkfontein is at 69%.

"We have to ensure there is enough water for the industrial heart of the country until the next rains," Maepa said.

The 20% restriction is to be achieved by a 30% domestic and 10% industrial saving.

Here's how households can do their bit:

■ Read your meter and monitor your account. A reasonable amount is 200 litres per person per day, or 30 kilolitres per family of five per month.

■ Avoid deep baths and long showers.

■ Use a bucket, not a hose, to wash your car.

■ Put tissues in a waste bin — don't flush 11 litres of potable water to get rid of them.

■ Water your garden early or late, not at midday when evaporation is highest.

■ Don't let taps drip.

You are not helping us, Constand

The Freedom Front's plan to colonise Zaire with white farmers is not in the interests of Zairean democracy, argues opposition leader

Mutombo Kabundji

FREEDOM Front leader Constand Viljoen, agricultural union president Dries Bruwer and a group of Afrikaans agricultural experts have returned recently from Zaire, where they discussed with President Mobutu South Africa's plan to settle farmers in Zaire.

This ambitious plan, whose aim is to cover the sub-Saharan region, began with Mozambique early this year, after ensuring that the democratic change that took place in that country will bring a lasting peace.

In the case of Zaire, I believe that in normal and acceptable conditions such a project should be welcomed, knowing that it could stimulate agricultural development and consequently initiate the reconstruction and development of both South

Africa and Zaire. WJM 21-27/4/95

Unfortunately, to me and to many Zairean political exiles who have decided to fight from South Africa against the 30-year-old Mobutu dictatorship, this initiative is inopportune.

Firstly, it is not complying with South Africa's new foreign policy and, secondly, it is detrimental to the Zairean democratic process.

To quote President Mandela: "South Africa's future foreign relations will be based on our belief that human rights should be the core concern of International Relations."

South Africans who have experienced for many years the oppressive regime, have a moral obligation to refrain from supporting despots of Mobutu's kind and should be involved in international efforts and campaigns to isolate a regime that is famous for its systematic violations of human rights, plundering of state resources and institutionalised corruption.

Are South Africans aware that Zaire is among the last countries worldwide where terror, coercion, assassinations, torture, arbitrary imprisonment, rape and pillage are state-spon-

sored activities carried out by military and paramilitary loyal to Mobutu?

In the last four years, Mobutu has killed more people than in the previous 30 years of tyranny. In 1990, Mobutu's men killed over 100 students at the University of Lubumbashi. One year later, 40 UDPS members (main opposition party) were massacred at Mbuji-mayi during a killing that spanned five days.

In 1992, more than 100 Christians were assassinated by Mobutu's soldiers while marching peacefully, demanding the re-opening of the National Conference.

In almost all the big cities, pillage and rape have been organised by Mobutu and his army to punish people for demanding political change and democracy.

Opposition leaders, progressive figures, have been assassinated and many have disappeared. Journalists have been subject to detention, false charges, torture ...

Are FF members aware that an "ethnic cleansing policy" has been initiated by Mobutu's Shaba Governor to create artificial political and ethnic unrest? By 1992, hundreds of thousands of Baluba had been driven out

of jobs and forced to leave their homes.

Zaire's economic growth rate has been negative since the 1980s. Inflation, which was running at 4 000 percent by 1992, has reached 10 000 percent this year. Zaire has three monetary zones, where US dollars and the zaire and new zaire are used in defiance of state sovereignty.

Transport infrastructure — the key factor for agricultural development — has decayed. The country is less accessible than it was during the colonial period, because of the breakdown of roads and railways. In the countryside, seven days are needed to cover a distance of 100 kilometres.

Africaners should read the history of Zaire to know that many before them, such as Portuguese and Greeks, have owned farms, medium-sized factories, ranches. In the 1970s, by Mobutu's decree, all foreign business owners were dispossessed, and their businesses distributed to Mobutu's inexperienced entourage. Since then all have collapsed, leaving the country in the situation where no major foreign

investment has come in for almost 25 years.

The FF leader should be informed that three weeks before their arrival in Zaire over 80 Lebanese and their families who owned businesses for many years in Kinshasa, were expelled from Zaire without notice and their businesses seized.

Added to this risky investment environment the political instability and crisis in which the country has been plunged since 1990, Zaire seems to be a huge powder keg where any time, as in the case of its neighbours Burundi and Rwanda, anything can happen.

Considering all these facts, we have concluded that all the meeting with Constand Viljoen has achieved is the "restoration" of Mobutu's image.

The "strong man of Zaire", desperately in search of international support, is rubbing his hands.

What the Zairean people need from South Africa is to put more pressure on Mobutu to halt his flagrant human rights abuses, to relinquish power and to start democratic change.

Once there is political and democratic stability, all doors will be wide open to real co-operation between South Africa and Zaire.

Mutombo Kabundji is deputy president of UDPS South

Vaal River and Vaal Dam. So the Vaal and Sterkfontein dams will have to meet Gauteng's water needs in the meantime.

The massive, four-phase LHWP, one of the largest tunnelling and civil engineering projects in the world, should provide sufficient additional water for SA's economic heartland for the next 30 years. Consumers, now served through the Rand Water Board with Department of Water

Affairs water from the Vaal and Sterkfontein dams, have already started paying for the project through the imposition of an 18c/m³ levy on end users.

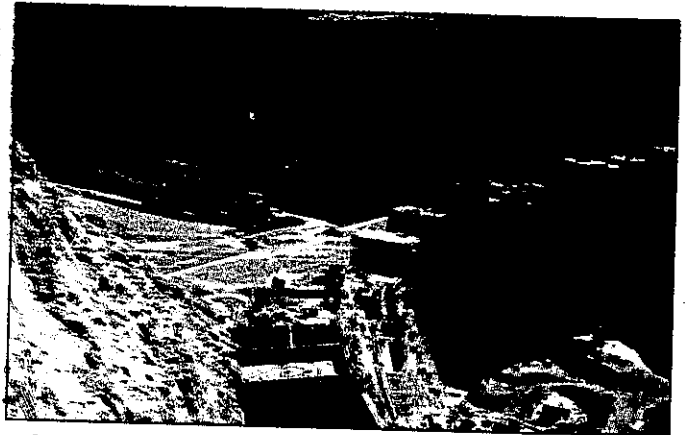
The one-year delay in the completion of the 45 km transfer tunnel will add about R500m to the project's cost. The tunnel must now be fully clad with concrete because of rock conditions.

Water Affairs managing engineer Willie Croucamp says: "The 18c/m³ levy instituted in 1988 is just the beginning of the eventual payment by future water consumers for the full costs, including finance charges, of the phased Lesotho project. A large percentage of the cost is currently being funded by loans from the World Bank, which provided US\$110m, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, export credit finance and other sources."

Phase 1 (A), now being completed at a cost of about R6,3bn excluding finance charges, includes the building of the Katse Dam on the Malibatso River; the 45 km transfer tunnel to the Muela tailpond dam for the 72 MW hydro-electric station that will generate power in Lesotho; and a 36 km delivery tunnel from Muela Dam to the Ash River.

"The R1,4bn Katse Dam is now 44% complete. About 1m³ of the dam's projected 2,3m³ of concrete has already been poured. Water storage should begin by September — even though no water will flow in to SA before January 1998," says Croucamp. Local companies Group 5 and Connor share a 35% portion of the construction contract.

In terms of their enabling treaty, the SA and Lesotho governments are jointly committed to complete phases 1 (A) and 1 (B) of the project. SA, through its Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority, guarantees full repayment of the loans entered into by Lesotho's Highlands Development Authority. SA will receive water and Lesotho



Lesotho Highlands Water Project . . . plagued by problems

hydro-power. Construction of Lesotho's Muela hydro-station is expected to begin this year with completion scheduled for mid-1998.

With most of the underground work on the delivery tunnel linking the Muela Dam and the Ash River in SA completed, it is now basically the completion of the Katse Dam, the concrete lining of the transfer tunnel in Lesotho and the building of the Muela Dam and hydro-power station that stands between Gauteng and its first water from Lesotho.

Meanwhile, LTA and Group 5 Construction, which in November were awarded the R230m contract to upgrade access roads to the site of the proposed 958 m³ Mohale Dam, have about 32 months to complete their work. Mohale Dam, together with a 30 km interconnecting tunnel to the Katse Dam, a small weir on the Matsoku River and a 6,4 km transfer tunnel from there to the Katse Dam, will form part of Phase 1 (B) of the project and should be completed by 2003.

Croucamp says consulting services for the main contracts for Phase 1 (B) are now being procured. Contracts for construction should commence by 1997-1998.

"The total water capacity of Phase 1 will be 30 m³/sec — but actual delivery, as defined in the treaty, was based on Gauteng's demand," says Croucamp. ■

Water, precious water

■ It'll be some years before

Lesotho water reaches Gauteng

FM 28/4/95
The massive Katse Dam — the highest in Africa at 185 m and the most prominent feature of Phase 1 (A) of the multibillion-rand Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) — will be completed by the end of 1996.

But consumers will have to wait until 1998 for the first Lesotho water to flow into the Vaal system. The problem is Katse is linked to SA by two tunnels and a year's delay in completing the 45 km transfer tunnel in Lesotho is holding up things.

Katse is linked, through the two tunnels, to the Ash River near Clarens and from there through the upper Wilge River to the

AGRICULTURAL BOARDS (3)

The right to export

FM 5/5/95
Fierce lobbying is taking place behind parliamentary doors as SA's agricultural boards fight to hold on to power. But one of those powers — the boards' monopoly on exports — could be unconstitutional.

In terms of the Marketing Act of 1968, the boards follow a single-channel marketing scheme for exports. All produce is pooled and handed over to the boards, who sell it on international markets.

The scheme is compulsory for all producers who want to export. But section 28 of the 1993 constitution guarantees the right to property, including the right to dispose of the property.

It's a right that also applies to foreigners (owning property) and juristic persons according to chapter 3 of the constitution — the chapter containing the Bill of Rights. section 28(2) does permit deprivation of these rights if it's in accordance with the law. But for that to happen, this deprivation must be "reasonable," "justifiable in an open and democratic society based on freedom and equality," and "shall not negate the essential content of the rights in question."

The boards are also likely to argue that

the limitation on ownership is justifiable considering their past successes in marketing SA produce overseas. They argue that the pooling arrangements, in particular, benefit farmers by creating economies of scale and bargaining power — an argument that would, however, still hold true for a voluntary marketing arrangement.

Farmers, however, are increasingly questioning the need for the single-channel marketing system in a post-sanctions era.

Many — eager to exploit the lucrative offers to export produce independently — are willing to shoulder any risks involved in direct deals. They are also beginning to question the returns yielded by centralised bureaucracies which seem incapable of flexibility in an international marketplace which needs quick decision-making.

Theo Moolman, of the Independent Citrus Growers' Association, says of Outspan's marketing efforts in Europe: "Yields of only 6% on retail prices are simply not acceptable. They should be closer to 25%. Judging from the numerous requests we receive to export, it's clear that Outspan is simply not keeping up with international demand. It's particularly disheartening to hear that buyers end up sourcing fruit from Chile while the Citrus Board refuses us permits to supply these markets."

A recent Ciskei Supreme Court case, however, offers some promise. The judge in *Qokose v Chairman, Ciskei Council of State and others 1994 (2) SA 198 (Ck GD)*, referring to the international acceptance of limitations on fundamental rights, stressed that the onus of establishing the constitutionality of these limitations rested with the State.

Suggesting that a high degree of proof is required, the judgment speaks of "the limitation being demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society" and being of "sufficient importance to warrant overriding a constitutionally protected right." The limitation must also not be "arbitrary, unfair or based on irrational considerations."

The boards, as arms of government, are also subject to administrative law and the concomitant responsibility to follow due procedure — a consideration that should make them think twice about refusing permits to export without supplying reasons for their decisions. ■

Dubious land deals face curbs

CAPE TOWN — Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday that measures would be taken to ensure artificially inflated prices were not being paid on land deals falling under the restitution process.

Addressing Parliament in his budget debate, Hanekom said "alarming reports of dubious deals" between sellers and desperate landless communities had come to the department's attention recently.

"We cannot allow such a situation to go unchallenged," he said.

Government had limited resources which had to be used judiciously in addressing land needs.

Bidding up land prices would have an adverse effect on the productive use of land and had negative implications for the property market, land development and the effective use of government resources.

"If reasonable measures are frustrated and do not succeed, we may be left

ADRIAN HADLAND

with no alternative but to resort to more drastic measures," he said.

Department officials had been instructed to take the "necessary precautions" in ensuring the participants of land reform programmes and the state did not pay unreasonable amounts.

Property valuation guidelines were also being drawn up, in conjunction with the Public Works Department, aimed at making

sure the criteria used in valuations reflected the true price of land.

A White Paper on land reform would be finalised by the end of the year, and it would set out the goals, mechanisms and a time-frame for the implementation of the land reform programme, he said.

A number of draft laws would also be referred to Parliament to provide the legislative basis for translating the new policies into reality, Hanekom said.

TODAY'S WEATHER

- Gauteng: partly cloudy and mild. (Daytime temperature: Johannesburg 21°)
- Eastern Transvaal: mild but warm in Lowveld. (Ermelo 21°)
- Northern Transvaal: mild but warm in Lowveld. (Pietersburg 22°)
- Northwest Province: warm with showers. (Coorbat-dorp 24°)
- Free State: mild to warm with showers. (Bloemfontein 23°)
- Northern Cape: cool to hot with showers. Wide-negative

Lavish water consumers to pay 21 percent more

Arg. 8/5/95

Municipal Reporter

LAVISH consumers of water are set to pay 21 percent more for what they use while the poor are in line for a five percent price cut.

Those falling in between will pay eight percent more.

This proposal has been approved by the Cape Town City Council's engineering services committee.

The full council will be asked at the end of the month to approve an increase in the water tariff but it applies only to those who use more than a certain amount.

In a new move, the council is considering dropping the price of water if consumption stays below an amount deemed to be essential for the average household.

The average increase in the price will be about six percent, but different

amounts will apply to various brackets of use.

The proposal is in step with Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal's plan to charge more for luxury use of water to subsidise the provision of water to indigent communities.

Deputy city treasurer Peter Lever said the idea was to respond to Mr Asmal's call for basic water supplies to be affordable.

It was estimated an average household needed 30 kilolitres of water a quarter (which is how water is billed), leading to the move to drop the price in this bracket by about five percent.

Households which used between 31 Kilolitres and 150 Kilolitres a quarter would pay eight percent more which was just slightly above the cost of supplying water, Mr Lever said.

~~3~~ 3

SA water research data a hit (3)

■ SCIENCE WRITER

South Africa now has one of the most comprehensive databases on water research projects in the world. Known as Waterlit, it is being used by more than 60 organisations in 16 countries.

Run by the South African Water Information Centre, the database on local and international water research publications has been built up over the past 20 years. The centre is administered by the CSIR Information Service on behalf of the Water Research Commission.

With more than 250 000 entries, the database contains the most extensive information about water

research conducted in SA searches on specific topics.

The information is marketed internationally on a CD-ROM and is updated quarterly. Subscribers can search the database from their own PCs through the CSIR's Worldnet Gateway Service.

According to Angela Rethman, manager of the Water Information Centre, the success of the product is a tribute to the standard of South African water research.

"Water researchers elsewhere in the world cannot afford not to remain abreast of what South African researchers are doing," she says.

The centre can deal with individual inquiries and undertakes literature

It also operates a monthly alerting service, which contains the latest developments in specific areas of interest. Its services are being supplemented with a new database containing information about where to find expertise, services and products associated with water.

"The aim of the service is to put people with specific problems and needs in touch with the experts or services which can provide a solution," Rethman says.

For further information, contact Leigh Fraser at (012) 841-3149 or fax (012) 86-2869.

Commission receives 450 land claims a day

(3) ~~277~~
By Mzimasi Ngudle

Sowetan 9/5/95
THE Commission on Restitution of Land Rights yesterday said it had received about 3 600 land claims — an average of 450 a day — since the commission opened its doors to claimants on May 1.

Acknowledging that the commission was poised for a hectic schedule, commission director Mr Baan van der Westhuizen said he could not furnish the exact figure, as claims were still

being fed into their newly installed computer system.

Van der Westhuizen said final rules governing procedures of the commission would be gazetted on Friday.

The rules, which were amended after the commission received input from important stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations, would supplant the existing provisional rules.

Documents to be attached to a prescribed claim form differ in accordance with the title of the claimant.

An original owner who lost a right in land must submit certified copies of his identity document and title deed.

In addition to the above documents, a descendent must bring a certified copy of the person who lost a right in land as well as the power of attorney authorising him to claim the land if the original owner is still alive.

In the case of inheritance, certified copies of the will and liquidation and distribution accounts and the written consent of all heirs with an interest in the land must be furnished.

Plan to boost small farmers unveiled⁽³⁾

A plan to broaden small farmers' access to agriculture was released by Deputy Agriculture Minister Thoko Msane yesterday.

The Broadening Access to Agriculture Thrust report aimed to develop services for people entering the agricultural sector for the first time, she said.

Priorities for the Government were capacity development for farmers and extension agents, reform of institutions, and a change of laws to remove barriers to the sector.

"The department is now focusing on mobilising resources to support these programmes both from donors and through the reorientation of the

agricultural budget," Msane said.

The report also established what resources the Government, the private sector and farmers had.

It identified gaps in the system and made recommendations to the Government on creating a thriving agricultural sector encompassing small, middle and large-scale farmers.

Although established commercial farmers would not be marginalised, the Government would focus its efforts in priority areas.

The report, by a team from the department and non-governmental organisations, was compiled after four months of consultation. — Sapa

STAR 10/5/95

Campaign to aid small farmers (3)

ET 10/5/95

THE government yesterday announced a new campaign, Broadening Access to Agricultural Thrust (Batat), to encourage and promote small farmers.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Ms Thoko Msan said the aim of the campaign was to enable small farmers to become entrepreneurs by promoting training and the utilisation of financial resources.

During the current financial year the Batat campaign will have a budget of R12 million, and will promote access to the R150m available for agricultural credit. —
Political Staff

Bank plan for small farmers

CT(BE)10/5/95 3(3)

By BRUCE CAMERON

POLITICAL EDITOR

The government is planning an extensive new banking network to finance the development of small farmers.

Central to the plan is the appointment of a wholesale financial intermediary to channel funds to small farmers through a chain of simple-service retail outlets in the most inaccessible of rural areas.

The department of agriculture is considering national institutions, such as the Development Bank, the Land Bank, the Independent Development Trust and the Kagiso Trust as potential candidates for the role of the wholesale institution.

The proposals are made in a departmental report on the broad-

ening of access to agriculture.

The department said the state had to provide incentives to compensate for high initial costs of developing the small farming sector. The costs included processing of new clients borrowing small amounts, debt collection to achieve adequate loan recovery rates and uncertainty surrounding the high perceived risk of loans.

The department hopes, by using a wholesale institution and providing initial support, that a network of private sector financial outlets will develop to provide financial assistance in rural areas.

The wholesale institution will develop retail intermediaries "to become sustainable and to rapidly extend their reach to an increasing number of small farmers".

The department said to be successful, the retailers will have to be given government guarantees and adequate incentives. However, the wholesaler "must be financially viable to mobilise funds and must be autonomous to make decisions consistent with financial viability".

The intention would be to gradually phase out the wholesaler as intermediaries started to service farmers on their own merits, without grants or concessionary funds.

Retailers would be able to apply to the wholesale institution for support in various areas, including:

- Refinancing a loan portfolio;
- Providing development funds to offset the costs of portfolio development and skills training and;

- Capital start up costs.

Getting water to the people

Star 11/5/95

30/12/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

"Leave it to the professionals" gains new meaning in the supply of water and sanitation with the establishment of a joint venture partnership between a local company and the world's largest water and sanitation supply group.

Group Five and the French company Lyonnaise des Eaux yesterday announced the formation of a new company, Lyonnaise Water Southern Africa (LWSA). Water Sanitation Services South Africa (WSSA), originally part of the Group Five company, becomes a subsidiary of LWSA.

Taking advantage of a gap in the local market, the new partnership offers the option of using the private sector to supply public services.

This would mean

LWSA's operating, maintaining and upgrading supply and sanitation, and arranging private sector finance, with the local authority retaining ownership of assets and control of quality standards and tariff settings.

Making history

In 1992, WSSA made SA history by signing the first long-term contract between a private company and a local authority. In the first three years of its 25-year contract with Queenstown, services have not only been upgraded and extended to disadvantaged communities, but a 20% reduction in costs has been achieved.

A key factor in the new partnership's success in meeting the challenge of community water supply would be what the company calls "delegated

water management contracts". Under this system, local people are consulted and then employed and developed to run the process, with the partnership supplying the training, technology and injection of capital.

"The major advantage of delegated management is that the private sector can offer municipalities management and operation of water and sanitation systems, customer management and financing assistance," says Jean Claude Ambert, executive director of LWSA.

One of largest projects the international company has been involved in is the upgrading of services in Buenos Aires.

In two years, the consortium in which Lyonnaise des Eaux has a 30% share has achieved a 90% recovery of customer payments, and a 27% reduction in costs.

Drought will cut SA growth by half percent, says IMF

et (BR) 11/5/95 (3) (4)

By CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

INVESTMENT EDITOR

Windhoek — The International Monetary Fund has shaved half a percentage point from its growth projection for South Africa because of the drought and is now working on GDP growth of 2,5 percent to 3 percent in 1995, a senior IMF official said yesterday.

IMF South African division chief Jurgen Reitmaier also said the IMF hopes that inflation can be kept below 10 percent in 1995.

Reviewing the South African economic outlook, he said the external environment was marked by a deterioration in the current account of the balance of payments to an expected 2 percent of GDP in 1995.

As import demand grew export performance remained relatively sluggish.

Reitmaier identified three major impediments to growth, although he said the IMF recognised a number of actions had been taken to remove these obstacles.

He told a seminar convened by the IMF, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation and the Multi-Lateral Investment Guarantee Agency that the impediments were:

Uncertainty stemming from the political transition;

Inadequate domestic savings; and

Relatively high labour costs.

To address these problems, he noted, the government had adopted outward-orientated trade policies and done everything possible to build confidence among investors, including reducing the fiscal deficit to 5,8 percent of GDP in the latest budget, from 6,4 percent in 1994.

The government had also redirected expenditure through the RDP, and was committed to keeping inflation down, he said.

There were other needs and policy challenges, especially the need to stem growth in unemployment. The growth outlook of 3 percent or less in 1995 and coming years was insufficient to make inroads into unemployment.

Competitiveness also needed to be improved, which required containment of labour costs and increased productivity.

The IMF welcomed steps taken to reform trade policy such as a reduction in the scope of the General Export Incentive Scheme and new schedules for tariffs. It also welcomed the abolition of the firrand, and the elimination of non-resident shareholders' tax and remaining import surcharges.

See facing page

Drought may cut growth

BO 11/5/98
MUNGO SOGGOT

WINDHOEK — The southern African drought could cut SA's growth this year to 2,5%, IMF southern African division chief Jurgen Reitmaier said yesterday.

Addressing a Press seminar, Reitmaier said the import demand generated by the pick-up in fixed investment could widen the current account deficit to as much as 2% of GDP this year.

The IMF believed that the three main impediments to growth in SA were political uncertainty, which had led to a "wait-and-see" attitude from investors, the country's inadequate domestic savings performance and its relatively high labour costs.

"Government has done everything to try to overcome the wait-and-see attitude," he said. It had cut the budget deficit to 6,4% of GDP in the 1994/95 financial year and it was encouraging that this year's target was 5,8%. Government also had a prudent set of monetary policies aimed at keeping inflation down.

SA would need growth of at least 4% to have any impact on the worsening unemployment situation.

Back to boards (3)

Agriculture in SA is destined to become highly regulated if government presses ahead with draft legislation published in the March *Government Gazette*.

Entitled the "Draft Marketing of Agricultural Products Bill, 1995," the Bill plans to install an all-powerful National Agricultural Marketing Council that would reintroduce the discarded mandatory stabilisation levies of the past, fix prices and ensure single channel marketing of agricultural commodities. Registration would be compulsory for producers who would have to supply records and returns.

Says Kit le Clus of the National Association of Maize Producing Organisations: "Agricultural products should be marketed in a free market system, tempered by government intervention where necessary and feasible to address

BUSINESS

market imperfections and improve efficiencies. The stated objective of the Act is to promote stability and encourage competition. But the draft legislation, if accepted, would allow Cabinet to restrict imports and exports."

The Minister would also have far-reaching powers to decide who may represent producers as well as determine who qualifies as a small as opposed to large producer. The Minister also has the power to appoint inspectors. The Bill provides for "Statutory Marketing Authorities" who would enforce regulatory measures.

Drafted with the knowledge of Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk, the Bill has taken producers and the industry by surprise. Says the Independent Citrus Growers' Association chairman Valdy Jensen: "It's difficult to believe that government published this Bill two months ago while Janet Love's Standing Committee on Agriculture is investigating desired outcomes for agricultural marketing."

Safex GM agricultural markets division John Wixley says the Bill amounts to price fixing and the perpetuation of single channel marketing. "We intend to take the matter further."

Le Clus has grave misgivings about its constitutionality. "Any statutory intervention in the markets needs to be justifiable in terms of Section 26(2) of the constitution. Public hearings should also be held before issues are decided — a procedure that would alleviate the Minister's burden of decision making."

He warns that commodity levies can be abused. Their purpose, size and who funds them should be carefully considered. ■

Major role
for private
sector in ⁽³⁾ ⁽²¹⁾
land reform

ARG 13/5/95

LAND Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom released a draft framework for land policy, including provision for a non-exploitative role for the private sector.

"The central goal of land policy is to create a just land dispensation, which will result in equitable distribution, secure tenure and sustainable land use.

"Provided that the private sector does not seek to unduly profiteer from the land reform programme, it has an important role to play as a financier, investor, planner, trainer and partner in land reform," the 21-page document says.

Mr Hanekom said yesterday the draft should provide a basis for discussion leading up to a public conference on land policy set for August. — Reuter.

Son of the soil faces new battle for land

By CHIARA CARTER

A FARMER forced from his land more than 15 years ago by apartheid faces a fresh obstacle in his fight to get back his farm — squatters.

Mothinya Molakeng's father, Bukanye Spook, had owned two plots on the farm Doornkop, about 16km from Ventersdorp, since 1949. He was forced to surrender his title deeds to the local magistrate in 1967, and 11 years later, on November 30 1978, his family — and others living in the area — were forcibly removed

by government officials.

The Molakeng family's pain at losing their land was so great that they did not go back to the Ventersdorp area for the next 16 years and settled in Hammanskraal near Pretoria.

Then the 1993 Land Commission ruled that the Doornkop community, owners and tenants alike, should get back their land.

Mr Molakeng gave up his job as a regional agricultural officer to farm his elderly father's land. But when he visited Doornkop last year he discovered that people were already living there, few of whom he recognised

from the original community.

"There were 15 shacks on the farm. The residents told me they were moved there by officials from the North West government's department of agriculture. Only one of these people was related to the dispossessed former occupants. The squatters said anyone, including me, could stay on condition R400 was paid," Mr Molakeng said.

He asked Land Affairs officials to stop the settlement growing.

But when he returned in February this year, he found the settlement had swelled to 57 shacks, several buildings had been erected and the squatters were ploughing fields.

Mr Molakeng again met officials from the Department of Land Affairs.

Frustrated at the lack of progress, he wrote to the Minister of Land Affairs, Derek Hanekom, and the Chief Commissioner of the Land Claims Commission, Joe Seremane.

This week, Mr Seremane advised him to go back to Land Affairs since the matter fell outside the commission's ambit.

Said an irate Mr Molakeng: "Imagine our heart-break. We have waited all these years to get back our land. I have given up my job to farm at Doornkop. We are law-abiding people who have filled in all the right forms and followed procedures. I am now desperate."

The Chief Director of Settlement Support in the Department of Land Affairs, Eli Enslin, said the squatters were not living on the Molakeng family plots, but other plots on the farm.

He said the department was "concerned" at the extent to which the settlement had grown.

His department had twice tried to arrange a meeting with all stakeholders and hoped to bring all these people together to thrash out issues later this month.

"If Mr Molakeng has all the proof needed and wants to occupy the plots on an individual basis, we are obliged to let him do that," Mr Enslin said.

STATE HOLDINGS MAY BE SOLD

Govt unveils land plan

CTIS/5/95

(3)

A DRAFT land policy document unveiled at the weekend identifies equitable land distribution, secure tenure and sustainable use as priorities, **BARRY STREEK** reports.

THE Department of Land Affairs has unveiled a far-reaching land reform programme, including the sale of state land, in an attempt to make land more accessible to the majority of South Africans.

The draft Framework Document on Land Policy was released at the weekend by Minister of Land Affairs Mr Derek Hanekom.

The document said all state land "should be audited and its location and usage be publicly and easily known".

The management of state land should be rationalised to promote effective decisions about its use. This would also allow it to be sold to promote redistribution or to raise funds for the RDP.

While the document did not name particular areas it is understood that Tribal Trust land, state-owned farms and areas of land used by the South African National Defence Force are under consideration.

However, a policy that used land for redistribution or as a resource to raise funds for the RDP required clear policy decisions and procedures, the document said.

Mr Hanekom said his department hoped to submit a draft White Paper on land reform to Parliament by the end of September and produce a final White Paper at the end of October.

The document said fundamental change should be brought about "to improve the opportunities of all South Africans to access land for beneficial and productive use".

Equitable distribution

"The central goal of land policy is to create an equitable distribution of land, secure tenure and sustainable land use."

The priority of land reform was to meet the needs of the poor "who are most in need of land", the document continued.

The success of land reform depended on "the establishment of co-operative support ... from government working with the private sector and non-government agencies".

The document said incentives for urban and rural housing should be similar. Government loans or grants accessible through the Department of Agricultural Affairs should be compatible with those available through the Department of Land Affairs.

The department's overall strategy was to redress past injustices, create opportunities for those in need to obtain land and provide secure tenure for all occupants.

The programme had to include financial support to individuals, groups and communities to acquire, plan and develop state-owned land and land in the market on an equitable basis.

"It is clear that the present mortgage basis of credit is a major barrier to the poor entering the land market. At the same time, group credit schemes have shown that the poor are very effective and efficient borrowers."

Tenure security would contribute to personal security and social stability as well as higher levels of investment and more sustainable use of land and other resources, the document said.

White tribe of Africa looks north

ROEDTAN. — The average white South African farmer used to view the rest of the continent as a nightmarish mixture of Idi Amin, famine, corruption and massacres.

Now, some seek greener pastures there.

In a migration evoking the Great Trek made by their Boer ancestors, dozens of farmers are scouting out countries they once saw as all that was wrong with black-ruled Africa: Mozambique (Marxism), Uganda (savagery), Zaire (corruption), Zambia (mismanagement) and Malawi (dictatorship).

Reformers now run most of those countries and black rule elsewhere seems less threatening a year after President Mandela came to power in South Africa. Most farmers credit Mr. Mandela with a good job, even if he talks of a land tax the white-minority regime would never have dared impose on its rural bedrock.

"This isn't about politics," said farmer Hans Herbst.

"If it was that, everybody would leave. It's about drought. It's mainly the people from the dry areas going."

Neither white nor black governments can control the 15-year drought that has burned once-rich soil to dust and dried up farm income in the Free State and Transvaal. Officials predict 3 000 South African farmers will go out of business in the next few years. Mr. Herbst, 60, is one. A trophy case at his

Rains have been sparse across much of southern Africa for four years. But parts of the white heartland of South Africa are dusty from more than a decade of drought, and some farmers are thinking the once unthinkable — migrating deeper into black Africa. An investigation by Associated Press reporter **PATRICK McDOWELL.**

farmhouse near Roedtan, a small town deep in the Transvaal heartland, attests to his skill as a rancher. But his spread of 1 500 hectares supports only 350 head of beef cattle — about a tenth of the herd that a similar-size farm in California could handle.

As his cows cluster at wells tapping an ever-dropping water table, Mr. Herbst thinks of the lush green fields of Uganda, a land of heavy rainfall bordering the bounteous waters of Lake Victoria.

He is the point man for 17 farmers interested in settling there if the right deal can be struck.

"They've got that Idi Amin story sorted out," Mr. Herbst said, referring to the 1970s dictator who killed tens of thousands of Ugandans.

"They've got very good infrastructure and there's no friendlier people on earth."

Uganda and half a dozen other nations are negotiating with the South African government and farm associations to woo settlers. The farmers want cheap, well-watered land and guarantees for export markets; the host countries hope to increase food output by

learning from the South Africans' modern techniques.

Officials involved believe some agreements can be reached by June.

"They want only South African farmers," said Dries Bruwer, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union.

"They say, 'You know Africa, how to farm in Africa and how to work with the people in Africa.'"

Black countries long viewed the white Afrikaner farmer as the personification of apartheid. And despite the end of South Africa's long isolation, white intentions remain suspect.

Mozambique and Uganda do not want white settlers to cluster together, fearing they might later claim a white statelet. Zaire's opposition fears whites could prop up dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

But Mr. Herbst considers himself an African farmer first and foremost, and South Africans travelling to the rest of the continent now that anti-apartheid sanctions are gone express surprise at the warm welcome.

"They are the white tribe of Africa," said

Muwfagy D Jeichande, Mozambique's ambassador to South Africa.

"I think the more they interact with other Africans they'll realise they are welcomed in Africa."

Mr. Mandela hopes the emigres can enrich South Africa's poor neighbours and stem a tide of illegal immigrants seeking jobs. He signed an agreement with Mozambique in February that envisages the settlement of 1 000 South African farmers.

Many farmers may be talking about Mozambique, but only a fraction are likely to go. Hundreds of thousands of landmines from Mozambique's long civil war litter the countryside, electricity in rural areas comes only from generators and only four-wheel-drive vehicles can navigate the poor roads.

The practical-minded, more likely, will go where they can most quickly find the greatest profits, probably from exports to the rest of Africa and Europe. Zaire, where crops routinely rot for lack of transport, would attract few. Uganda's four crop cycles a year might do better.

Farmers staking their children's future on migration hope to avoid disaster by going only to countries with which the South African government signs enforceable international agreements.

They want to ensure Afrikaans-language education for their children, possibly via computer linkups, and to live close enough to each other to share a church. — Sapa-AP.



GREENER PASTURES: Cattle farmer Hans Herbst at a dried-up watering hole on his farm near the Transvaal town of Roedtan. Mr. Herbst is one of many farmers seeking a better life in other African countries due to the crippling drought of the past 15 years.

Boers look north for green pasture

By PATRICK McDOWELL

SAPA-AP

The average white South African farmer used to view the rest of the continent as a nightmarish mixture of Idi Amin, famine, corruption and massacres.

Now, some seek greener pastures there.

In a migration evoking the Great Trek, dozens of farmers are scouting countries they once saw as representing everything wrong with Africa under black rule: Mozambique (Marxism), Uganda (savagery), Zaire (corruption), Zambia (mismanagement), Malawi (dictatorship).

Reformers now run most of those countries, and black rule elsewhere seems less threatening a year after Nelson Mandela came to power.

Most farmers credit Mandela with a good job, even if he talks of a land tax the previous government would never have dared impose on its rural bedrock.

"This isn't about politics," said farmer Hans Herbst. "If it was that, everybody would leave. It's about drought. It's mainly the people from the dry areas going."

Neither white nor black governments can control the 15-year drought that has burned once-rich soil to dust and dried up farm income in the Free State and Transvaal. Officials predict 3 000 South African farmers will go out of business in the next few years.

Herbst, 60, is one of them. A trophy case at his farmhouse near Roedtan, a flyspeck town deep in

the Transvaal heartland, attests to his skill as a rancher. But his spread of 3 700 acres supports only 350 head of beef cattle — about one-tenth of the herd that a similar-size farm in California could handle.

As his cows cluster at wells tapping an ever-dropping water table, Herbst thinks of the lush, green fields of Uganda, a land of heavy rainfall bordering the bounteous waters of Lake Victoria. He is the spokesman for 17 farmers interested in settling there if the right deal can be struck.

"They've got that Idi Amin story sorted out," Herbst said, referring to the 1970s dictator who killed tens of thousands of Ugandans. "They've got a very good infrastructure. And there are no friendlier people on earth."

Uganda and half a dozen other nations are negotiating with the South African government and farm associations to woo settlers.

The farmers want cheap, well-watered land and guarantees for export markets.

The host countries hope to increase food output by learning modern techniques from the South Africans. Officials involved believe some agreements can be reached by June.

"They only want South African farmers," said Dries Bruwer, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union. "They say, 'You know Africa, how to farm in Africa, and how to work with the people in Africa.'"

Black countries long viewed the white Afrikaner farmer, or Boer, as the personification of apartheid. And despite the end of South

Africa's long isolation, white intentions remain suspect.

Mozambique and Uganda do not want white settlers to cluster together, fearing they might later claim a white state. Zaire's opposition fears whites could prop up dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

But Herbst considers himself an African farmer first and foremost, and South Africans, travelling to the rest of the continent now that anti-apartheid sanctions are gone, express surprise at the warm welcome they usually receive.

"They are the white tribe of Africa," said Muwfyg Jeichande, Mozambique's ambassador to South Africa. Mandela hopes the emigres can enrich South Africa's poor neighbours and stem a tide of illegal immigrants seeking jobs. He signed an agreement with Mozambique in February that envisages the settlement of 1 000 South African farmers there.

Although many farmers may be talking about Mozambique, only a fraction are likely to go.

The practical-minded will go where they can most quickly find the greatest profit, probably from exports to the rest of Africa and Europe.

Zaire, would attract few. Uganda, with its four crop cycles a year, might do better.

ET(RR) 17/5/95

(3)

Nine shortlisted for land claims court (3) (4)

ARG 18/5/95
JOHANNESBURG. — Nine people have been shortlisted as nominees for the Land Claims Court, Chief Justice Michael Corbett has announced.

The nominees will be interviewed by the Judicial Service Commission in public in Cape Town on July 3 and 4.

One will be appointed president and two others additional judges of the court.

The shortlist is:

● Fikile Bam, of Johannesburg law firm Deneys, Reitz

● Alan Dodson, of Cape Town's Mallinck Ress Richman & Cloenberg

● Antonie Gildenhuys, head of the National Peace Secretariat

● Anson Lugaju, an Umtata regional magistrate

● Mr Justice Moloto

● Dimpheletse Moshidi, a Johannesburg lawyer

● Nic Olivier

● Vuyiswa Ramphele

● Frank Sithole, of Durban firm Woodhead, Rigby and Irving. — Reuter.

LAND AFFAIRS

Bashing the boss

Land Affairs Deputy Minister Tobie Meyer has thrown down the gauntlet to his Minister, Derek Hanekom, by publicly denouncing many of Hanekom's policies.

Strongly criticising "a State-driven land reform programme which would have to be financed by the Exchequer," Meyer calls for the "involvement of the private sector in a mainly market-driven process."

Hanekom recently launched a R316m pilot land reform programme in all nine provinces, to be supported by a massive, still-to-be-created bureaucracy. He has also called for huge increases in the budgetary allowances for his department to implement its redistribution programmes.

Meyer says involving the private sector through incentives "would be more cost-effective and of greater national importance than a State-driven process focusing on a few districts with bloated bureaucracies."

Meyer's views, coming from a National

Party perspective, counterbalance Hanekom's often controversial statements on issues such as the institution of a land tax (now with the Katz Commission); criticism of drought aid to crop farmers; proposals to redistribute a large percentage of SA's farming land to the dispossessed within the next five years; and the creation of a new form of registered land tenure.

In the process he has ruffled a few feathers in the Agriculture Department headed by Minister Kraai van Niekerk.

Referring to "the grey area of responsibility and functionality between the two departments," Meyer says "it is imperative



Hanekom

that a clear and unequivocal working relationship between the two departments and the Ministries be reached as soon as possible. This can only transpire if policy is clearly formulated and areas of operation and responsibility clearly demarcated." And

"there should be no transgression on the functional area of any other department."

At the heart of the perceived policy differences lies the fact that Van Niekerk's department traditionally represented the interests of (mainly white) commercial farmers while Hanekom is seen as the champion of (mainly black) smallholder farmers and the dispossessed.

"Uncertainty among present land owners as well as new entrants to land will lead to conflict and confrontation and will also undermine investors' confidence," Meyer says. He adds: "A successful land reform programme can only be implemented if there is a common vision among all role players. These include line-function departments but in particular the Department of Agriculture."

Meyer also makes a powerful plea for proper prescription of property ownership as it is "the foundation for any country's economy," providing investor confidence as the basis for credit extension, creating new investment and being "a clear signal as to economic policy."

He adds that SA cannot afford an economic policy that is not in line with the philosophy of the World Bank and other financial institutions. ■

Green cancer of alien plants 'costs SA dear'

CT 19/5/95

(3)

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

THE "green cancer" of alien invader plants was costing SA dear in terms of water supply, its fynbos and indigenous plant kingdom, loss of agricultural land and tourism potential, ANC MP Mrs Judy Chalmers said yesterday.

"The government of the past encouraged the planting of invader plants with seemingly little thought of the devastation they

would cause," she said during the National Assembly debate on the Environmental Affairs vote.

Mrs Chalmers said in the past the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry seemed to assume the quantity and quality of water supply depended on rainfall.

However, research in Port Elizabeth showed the most economic way of supplying water was not to build more dams. "It would be cheaper to eradicate alien vegetation in the catchment area.

"The unit cost of water in the proposed new dam in the Tsitsikammas would be 65 cents a kilolitre, whereas water produced as a result of alien tree control management would cost 48 cents a kilolitre. This is a substantial saving."

Alien invaders along river schemes in the Western Cape were pine forests and Hakea.

"The reason these trees are such a threat is they consume 3 000m³ of water per hectare per annum, are usually taller, grow faster and

so consume more water."

This had drastically reduced land and water availability and had put the fynbos species at risk.

"Regarding Cape Town's situation, I was told if the invasion of alien plants is allowed to continue unchecked at the present rate until 55 to 60% of the catchment area is invaded, it would mean about 86 million cubic metres of water could be lost annually, or 34% of the annual water demand of the Cape Town Metropolitan area."

Boland leader accused of abuse in small-farm deal

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

THE chairman of the African Farmers Union (AFU), a body launched to facilitate the resettlement of small-scale farmers on land in the Western Cape, has been accused of abusing his position to buy land in the area.

Residents of Saron in the Boland have accused Mr Evan Matthews of abusing his position and financial status to get a stake in farms earmarked for "ordinary" people.

One resident, who asked not to be identified, said a group of farmers who were resettled on a co-operative farm, were "virtually forced" to accept Mr Matthews as a partner.

He said several men in the town had undergone agricultural training, but were "overlooked" once the land became available.

Mr Matthews this week admitted he bought the 1 600 ha farm, La Gratitude,

along with three other farmers. He denied, though, that there was anything irregular in the deal.

He said he was the only other person who could provide security for a loan from the Agricultural Credit Board.

"I did this to ensure that the farm went to people from the community," he said. Mr Matthews claimed that if he did not assist the farmers, the farm was to be sold privately (3) ST (CM) 21/5/95

Single-channel sales studied

Linda Ensor

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BD 22/5/95
LONDON — The single-channel marketing system used in sectors of agriculture in SA has become a model other countries want to study — despite the vociferous opposition to it by free marketeers.

Last week a British parliamentary committee visited the Cape to see what it could learn from the way the fruit industry organised itself.

The delegation was led by Sir Jerry Wiggin — the MP facing a storm over the manner in which he used another MP's name, without permission, to submit to parliament an amendment to legislation in which he had a financial interest.

Had the scandal not erupted, the visit by Wiggin and his team would most probably have gone unnoticed.

However, it focused attention on what SA could offer the world in terms of marketing agricultural produce.

Britain's horticulture industry is in decline with a £2m annual trade deficit.

The committee is investigating the reasons for this decline.

The trip was motivated by Kent apple farmers, whose fruit has not commanded prices as high as SA's apples in Britain.

The centralised marketing arrangement in SA is seen as the reason SA's farmers win British supermarket custom at the expense of domestic producers.

Capespan MD Louis Kriel noted at the weekend that interest in SA's single-channel marketing system was widespread — Switzerland and India had sent delegations to investigate it.

Kriel attributed the success of the local industry to two factors — the culture of quality, which involved an intense awareness among growers of the need for quality, and the discipline and uniformity imposed by the single-channel marketing system.

Kent apple farmers had established a unified organisation, Enfru, to represent their interests, he said.

"Despite all the criticisms of the single-channel marketing system it has proved a success and is now being exported," Kriel said.

Free marketeers failed to understand that for SA farmers to export successfully, the single channel was vital.

He pointed out that unlike US and European fruit farmers, who were at the mercy of supermarket chains, SA farmers did not receive government subsidies.

Agriculture looks to EU benefits

4/23/95

44
3

■ BY JOHN FRASER
STAR FOREIGN SERVICE

Brussels — EU Commisisoner for South Africa Joao de Deus Pinheiro is to propose a substantial lifting of European import tariffs against agricultural products from South Africa.

EU spokesman Joao Vale de Almeida said yesterday he hoped the new measures would come into place on July 1. "We will be putting our proposals to the European Commission in the next few weeks, and hope to win the support of EU governments before July," he explained.

The tariff cuts will be offered under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), a framework set up by the United Nations for rich nations to offer benefits to poorer states.

South Africa already enjoys GSP benefits for industrial goods, and for a limited range of agricultural and fisheries products.

However, there was deep disappointment in South Africa when the EU stopped short of offering comprehensive GSP benefits for agriculture, in the package which came on stream in January.

Only around a fifth of the trade in farm products which South Africa had hoped would benefit was actually included.

The aim is to give South Africa equal treatment to that which is available to the other GSP beneficiaries.

The GSP system for agriculture is due for an overhaul from next January, so the advantages would only be offered to South Africa for six months.

However, this would mean better access for South African farm exports while negotiations get going on a wider-ranging trade deal between the EU and South Africa.

This is unlikely to come into force before 1996.

It's tough being a ^③ farmer in SA

SPAN 23/5/95

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

The outlook for agriculture, a backbone of the country's economy, continues to be weak.

The maize harvest, always a good barometer of the industry, is likely to be about 4,4-million tons this year as against 12-million in 1994.

The Department of Agriculture said poor rainfall combined with searing heat over the past months had played a key role in making farming difficult.

The conditions had resulted in 24,4% less maize being planted, while plantings of grain sorghum were cut by 11,2%.

Instead, farmers planted sunflower seeds — up by 41% more over the 1993-94 season — as well as soya beans to recoup losses.

During February and March, farmers held high hopes of an excellent season because of good rains, but high temperatures were then recorded, nullifying the benefits.

By March 23, 62 districts had to be included in the emergency drought help scheme, as against

44 at the same time last year.

Conditions were particularly serious in the Free State, said the department. A total of 17 districts in the province were declared drought stricken — 14 more than the previous year. The Northern Cape, Northern Transvaal and Eastern Cape were also badly affected.

Agricultural production volume increased by 3,5% during the 1994-95 fiscal year. Production prices went up 12,7%, and input costs by 7,2%.

The nett farming income for the year was R9,4-billion — 37,2% higher than the previous year — while investment in machinery, labour and transportation reached 16,5%.

The highest cost borne by the farmer was for fuel while there has also been a marked jump in fertiliser costs.

The total agricultural debt reached R19-billion by December 31 last year, an increase of 4,4% over the corresponding period in 1993, and is the highest yet recorded by the farming sector.

■ The SAAU has reorganised to provide more efficient services to the agricultural industry.



Breaking the back . . . farming's strength is draining away.

PICTURE: SEAN WOODS

'Agriculture holding back growth'

SPAN 23/5/95 ③

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER

The agricultural sector — struggling to get back on even keel after years of drought and financial problems for farmers — is effectively holding back the economy's growth rate, says a Unisa retail sales forecast published today.

The university's Bureau for Market Research (BMR) says that provided relative political stability is maintained for the rest of this year, and business

and consumer confidence remains buoyant, there is no reason why the non-agricultural sector of the economy should not reach a growth rate of about 4%.

"Fluctuations in agricultural production continue to exert a strong influence on growth in the gross domestic product (GDP)," it adds.

"Current indicators for the 1995 agricultural season point to a decline in output. The GDP in this sector is expected to drop by 17,4%, bringing the overall

growth rate down to 2,9%."

The decline is unlikely to have a major effect on agricultural produce prices as the BMR believes the inflation rate will peak at 10,5% next month and then start declining to 8,6% in December.

It adds that an average increase in retail prices for the year will be lower than the expected inflation rate but that non-retail items could be expected to go up by more than 10,5%.

TV programme for farmers ①③

Louise Cook BD 23/5/95

GOVERNMENT yesterday launched a new TV programme aimed at training farmers.

The Agriculture Department said it would produce Farmer's Indaba for screening on NNTV on Thursdays.

The programme, which would debut in June, would focus on a variety of farming issues, including marketing information to help farmers who were now operating in a more competitive environment.

Agriculture Deputy Minister Thoko Msane said the programme would be critical in government's attempts to create effective information systems.

The aim is not to teach only specific skills, but also to get feedback from farmers, she said.

The programme would put new issues forward. For example, viewers would be made aware of the importance of early drought warning systems, rather than focusing on drought assistance. Instead of concentrating on the cost of maize, free market and international trade opportunities in the industry would take preference.

The focus of Farmer's Indaba would be educational, but would not avoid actuality issues.

Chief producer Jan de Beer said the programme would be accessible to millions of small farmers after October if SABC proposals to the IBA were implemented.

Medicine trade bound by pact

Beatrix Payne

NATIONAL Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers' members had signed an agreement binding them to purchase medicines directly from manufacturers or authorised agents, association executive director Trevor Phillips said at the weekend.

The association represents about 80% of private sector medicines sales. "The only way to stamp out the grey market in the distribution area is to regulate the supply chain," he said. Members breaking the agreement face heavy penalties — including expulsion from the association.

Grey market medicines came from two sources, he said. First, through dispensing doctors selling cheap medicines to wholesalers after buying stock from manufacturers at a considerable discount.

The second source was medicines stolen from manufacturers or state warehouses "re-entering the market by devious means and being sold to the trade at temptingly low prices".

Transferring the functions and responsibilities of a pharmaceutical wholesaler to a sole distributorship controlled by a group of manufacturers was unlikely to cut end-user

medicine prices, Phillips said.

"It will cost (the group) just as much to operate the warehouses, vehicle and staff and merely transfers responsibilities to a new organisation charged with a similar job description," he said.

It was misleading to claim that a sole distributorship would reduce medicine costs as it cut out the wholesaler or middleman, as similar operational costs were charged to the manufacturers sharing in the sole distributorship.

"Inevitably this would be reflected in the medicine prices," he said.

A single source for a range of medicines introduced a "stranglehold" on the end-user's access.

If sole distributorships continued to grow they would inhibit the end-user's freedom of supply choice and extend monopolistic practices that this development had introduced which were not in the interest of the community pharmacist or the patient, he said.

International Healthcare Distributors, the sole distributor for pharmaceutical manufacturers Sandoz, Bayer, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Roche and Ciba-Geigy, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Defence Force discipline debate

ADRIAN HADLAND

CAPE TOWN — The SA National Defence Force conceded yesterday that part of its disciplinary process was unconstitutional but argued its members should not be subject to every clause of SA's Bill of Rights.

Addressing the joint standing committee on defence Adm Johan Retief said three forms of court martial existed within the defence force.

There was the general court martial for senior officers, and the ordinary court martial for junior officers and lower ranks.

The third type of court martial, summary trials, generally dealt with lesser offences committed by junior SANDF members.

The accused did not have the right to legal representation or to a public trial, Retief said.

According to the constitution's chapter on fundamental rights, every accused person has the right to a public trial before an ordinary court of law within a reasonable time. The accused also has the right to be represented by a legal practitioner.

Doing away with summary trials would cause "very difficult" legal problems, Retief said.

He called on the committee to amend the Act to allow the retention of the procedure and the acceptance of this limitation on soldiers' rights.

Land ownership rights 'are safe'

THE expropriation or confiscation of land to achieve government's land reform initiative was unnecessary, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

He told the SA-German Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg that there was sufficient land available on the free market for government to buy, as it proceeded with its land reform effort.

He went on to say, however, that expropriation would have to be "absolutely justified". It would be considered in instances where there was no land available on the free market.

But Hanekom assured his audience government would not impinge on current property ownership rights. This policy was likely to be contained in the White Paper due to be presented to Parliament in October.

"It is a tricky situation. It is not our intention to encroach upon the rights of existing landowners.

"We will embark on land reform without creating new injustices and in so doing secure property rights for all South Africans."

Government wanted to remove impediments to land ownership.

Government would make it possible for tenants under the customary

tenure system to move away from the system, as it did not give legal ownership to the tenant.

This system had been practised largely in the former homelands.

By encouraging a freehold title system, people would be able to own land, and use it as collateral to raise loans. However, where people were happy to continue with the customary tenure system, measures would be taken to ensure its legal recognition, he said.

The private sector would have a significant role to play in land reform and provision, but the state had a responsibility to facilitate this through enabling legislation, policies and institutions.

Hanekom said he did not believe land reform could be left solely to the dictates of the free market system. Land resources and access were tightly held, and in such instances the free market would be skewed in favour of that clique.

However, he said government intervention would be "well-directed" and would not repeat the mistakes of Zimbabwe's land reform effort.

"It is exactly what we want to avoid. I don't believe the route they are on is the right route." — Sapa.

Moosa intervenes in Bushbuckridge dispute

3 (2/2/95) (2/2/95) WM 19-25/5/95
Stefaans Brümmer

DEPUTY Minister of Constitutional Affairs Mohammed Valli Moosa this week intervened in the border dispute between Eastern Transvaal Premier Mathews Phosa and Northern Transvaal Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi.

It is understood Moosa's move to resolve the dispute over Bushbuckridge — part of the former Lebowa and Gazankulu homelands at present demarcated in the Northern Transvaal — was spurred on by a *Mail & Guardian* article last week highlighting allegations of heavy-handed tactics used against perceived opponents of incorporation in the Eastern Transvaal.

African National Congress (ANC) branches in Bushbuckridge were traditionally organised as part of the movement's Eastern Transvaal structures. But Bushbuckridge was made part of the Northern Transvaal under the new Constitution.

Phosa's Eastern Transvaal government, aware of the political strength to be derived from the enclave, started negotiating last year to have it transferred. A tentative agreement was reached between the premiers last September, but the process dragged on, spawning recrimination and allegations of intimidation.

Moosa said he had met with Ramatlhodi and Phosa on Monday and that it was decided the earlier agreement on transfer would be honoured. But the future of Bushbuckridge and Groblersdal, an Eastern Transvaal border town claimed by the Northern Transvaal, would be decided "as a package". Phosa earlier insisted Groblersdal was a separate issue.

Moosa's representative, Mpho Mosimane, said the deputy minister "has initiated a process of consultation which should lead to a resolution within the next three weeks", and that a public hearing for all interested parties would be held in Groblersdal on May 26.

ousing shortage ● Union negotiates resettlement on state land

Black farmers take issue

By Isaac Moledi

③ Sowetan 25/5/95
 THE National African Farmers Union has called on the Government to address the problems facing black farmers.

Formed in 1991 to champion black farmers' aspirations and lobby for Government support, the union also reacted strongly to attempts by established white organisations and unions to split the organisation.

Nafu general manager Mr Stephen Mokoene says the Government is responsible for assisting black farmers regain their lands for farming.

Mokoene says Nafu has been negotiating with the Government to start a process of resettling black farmers on disused farm lands currently under the control of the Department of Agriculture.

"We have been meeting with Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom and an agreement was reached to form a task team to look into state lands currently under a trust, so that decisions can be reached as to what steps can be followed

to settle black farmers in those lands," says Mokoene.

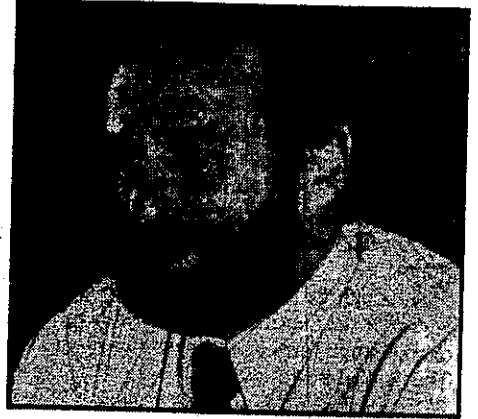
He also rejects allegations that Nafu is opposed to the idea of having one national body or single provincial organisation representing all farmers.

"Nafu is not opposed to a single provincial organisation representing all farmers. There are many factors that have to do with empowerment of black farmers that are militating against this idea at the moment," he says.

It is therefore not feasible that after amalgamating black and white unions that these factors or issues will be pursued with the same vigour, Mokoene adds.

For any merger to succeed, he argues, organisations or farmers should go in as equals.

"Black farmers and their organisations are marginalised and still discriminated against. Their capacity is also limited and the clandestine efforts to have them assimilated into powerful, well connected structures can only result in farmers compromising their own interests," stresses Mokoene.



Derek Hanekom ... black farmers want him to resettle them on unoccupied state lands.

He says it is only when the playing field has been levelled and many of the problems facing black farmers have been addressed that single organisations at both provincial and national level will succeed.

Govt urged to expropriate land

Ingrid Salgado

BD 25/575

THERE was not enough arable land for redistribution purposes and Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom had to be bold enough to apply government's expropriation policy, the National Land Committee said yesterday.

Hanekom said this week that confiscation of land was unnecessary as there was enough available on the free market. Expropriation had to be "absolutely justified".

The committee said it was government's duty to play a fundamental role in ensuring land redistribution occurred. "The truth is that there is no practical way in which the government can carry out the land redistribution process in SA without impinging on the rights of many property owners."

The reconstruction and development programme (RDP) target of redistributing 30% of arable land within five years would be met only by taking land from white owners, since there was limited state-owned land available to government.

The committee was opposed to Hanekom's "overemphasis" on market forces because it would exclude the majority of people who should benefit. "The landless people of SA do not have the resources to compete in the land market."

There was a trend among white landowners to abuse the redistribution process by asking exorbitant prices for land, which landless people could not afford, the committee said. Government could not "bankrupt its budget by paying these ridiculous prices". Landowners demands would bring redistribution "to a grinding halt" and government needed to use expropriation to counter this.

Government had to begin collecting debts from indebted farmers. If owners failed to pay, as had been the case to date, government had to expropriate their land for redistribution purposes, the committee said.

Tax could endanger jobs — Meyer

Louise Cook

BD 29/5/95

A LAND tax of 2% — mooted by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and currently under investigation by the Katz commission — could jeopardise three to four job opportunities on a typical fruit farm in the Western Cape, Land Affairs Deputy Minister Tobie Meyer warned at the weekend.

Meyer said the profit margin on a farm was usually between 3% and 4%. A 2% tax rate would be of a "confiscating nature".

(3) (277)
He said the administrative cost of a land tax could be kept at realistic levels if farms were not evaluated individually.

"Farms would have to be taxed on a regional basis. It should be imposed on the value of the land rather than the productive value of the farm," he said.

Meyer called for the tax not to be calculated according to farm improvements linked to employment or to increased production.

"It should be a tax for the people, by the people," he said.

White farmers get land back

Adrian Hadland

CAPE TOWN — More than 60 white farmers had properties returned to them last year after the commission on land allocation ruled that they had been disadvantaged by expropriations carried out under racially based laws.

In the commission's last annual report before its replacement by the commission on the restitution of land rights, acting chairman Nic Olivier said the body had not discriminated between claimants on the basis of race.

"It became evident to the commission that some white farmers had their properties expropriated in terms of racially

based laws, against their will."

In some cases they had the same historical and traditional attachment to the land as black communities dispossessed of ancestral land. The fact that these white farmers had received compensation — even if it could be described as "adequate" — did not necessarily remove the mental and physical hardship suffered. This included the loss of an ancestral home, effort put into development, sentimental attachment to the land and the hardships associated with starting afresh in a new area.

"Most of these farmers begged the commission to allow them to buy back their

Continued on Page 2

Land

Continued from Page 1

former farms at market-related prices, or in return for the compensation they had been paid out." Some had also suffered pecuniary loss as part of the compensation was paid out in government bonds.

Where the commission was convinced farmers had suffered real prejudice, it had had no compunction in deciding that the land should be restored to the previous owner. In a limited number of cases, the

commission had issued an order to this effect.

The number of whites in whose favour it had ruled was a "mere handful", the commission said. Totalling 63 in all, the area of land concerned amounted to not more than 9% of the land the commission considered.

In some cases prejudice suffered by farmers could not be rectified "due to the nature of the prejudice, the subsequent development of the land and the scope of the commission's powers".

NEWS Cops condemn suggestion

(3) Sowetan 30/5/95

Dagga could 'benefit' the whole of SA

■ **BIG CROP** Urgent need for research into uses of KwaZulu-Natal's cannabis:

THE POSSIBILITY OF legalising the use of dagga should be seriously considered by researchers, says a development consultant and former Durban city councillor Mr Peter Mansfield.

He said yesterday that research into the subject might also arrive at the conclusion that present legislation criminalising the possession or use of dagga was correct.

"But I do feel research must be done," he said. "It is a huge crop in this province and should be seriously investigated."

Mansfield has suggested to the University of Natal that it establish a dagga research institute to study the plant and its uses.

"I do feel that in the new South Africa we should be willing to look at issues such as cannabis in new ways," he said.

"I believe that a proper study of the cultivation and potential beneficial uses has considerable economic and other implications for the province and South Africa as a whole."

Mansfield said a study some years ago showed that the value of the dagga crop in KwaZulu-Natal was greater than that of the province's biggest in 2013 crop, sugar.

"The present situation punishes the rural poor, stretches the police force and pays no attention to taking the benefits of a very

significant crop seriously," he said.

He wanted research into the uses of dagga — in the medical field, as a fuel resource and as a source of vegetable oil.

"I believe it has sufficient potential to make a major contribution to the reconstruction and development programme."

But his suggestion that the legalisation of dagga be considered was condemned by the head of the police's narcotics bureau, Colonel Piet Meyer.

He said legalisation would lead to a wide range of problems related to the control of the drug and access to it.

"Are we going to allow it to be sold to 12-year-olds?" he asked. "Research by the World Health Organisation has shown that dagga causes lung cancer about seven times faster than ordinary tobacco."

"I agree that it can have medical uses but it also contains 32 harmful chemicals and experts worldwide agree that it should not be legalised." Meyer said South Africa had agreements with the World Health Organisation and the United Nations that dagga would not be legalised.

He said dagga use in South Africa was linked to the country's serious Mandrax problem. "People who use dagga build up a tolerance to it. They then want more and more to satisfy their need. Then they add Mandrax." — *Sowetan Correspondent.*

Umgeni Water down R68 m

MAUREEN MARUD, Business Staff

Umgeni Water has reported a 5,1 percent drop in 1995 retained earnings of R68 million, compared with the previous year.

The Pietermaritzburg-based local authority's board yesterday presented its financial statements, and to allay shareholders' fears following financial media charges of undisciplined market making.

It is safe to invest in Umgeni Water stock, Avison Carlisle, director of finance and administration, assured an audience of about 100 of Cape Town's "very significant" number of investors in the triple A-rated local authority.

He is confident that an independent audit of Umgeni Water, announced by the Minister of Water Affairs, will produce the same positive results as the annual independent audit, completed recently, Mr Carlisle said after the presentation.

③ (125) ARG 8/6/95
He told investors the drop in retained earnings was owing partly to higher-than-budgeted electricity costs incurred during the Natal drought, when, instead of supplying water by gravitation, the local authority had to pump it from the Mooi River.

Water sales increased by 14,3 percent in 1995 to R314 million. A 48,4 percent rise in water purchases totalling \$35 million, brought net water revenue to \$279 million in the year. Operating income increased by 1,9 percent to R150 million.

Net interest and finance charges rose by 8,6 percent to R81 million. Net current assets increased to R78 million. Value added in terms of capital charges and direct labour costs was R170 million.

In terms of Umgeni Water's five-year capital programme, it will be spending in the region of R400 million a year in the next four to five years, Mr. Carlisle said.

Black lawyers hindered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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CT 31/5/95

JOHANNESBURG: Black nominees to the bench could not become judges if they were expected to have the same experience levels as their white counterparts, the Judicial Service Commission heard yesterday.

Bench candidate advocate Ms Lucy Mailula told the commission she had never handled big commercial cases because these had historically been the domain of white advocates.

Responding to a question, she said using commercial experience as a criterion would close the door to the bench to most black candidates. The commission should rather question candidates' ability to interpret the law, she added.

One of the most experienced black

advocates on the Rand, Ms Mailula said she was confident she would be able to handle most cases if given a chance to confer with other judges and to check the facts.

The commission was interviewing three candidates to the one vacant seat in the Cape provincial division of the Supreme Court. Advocates Mr Siraj Desai and Mr Willem Louw SC were the other nominees.

Mr Desai, who has 19 years' experience as an advocate, said training of judges could never replace experience acquired during practice in the Supreme Court.

But training would be necessary because of the lack of experienced people who could transform the bench to make it representative of South African society, he added.

Mr Louw said he accepted the need for the bench to become more representative.

COURT BRIEFS

Elroy's cousin to testify

A NINE-YEAR-OLD cousin of strangling victim, Elroy van Rooyen, 10, is to testify in the murder trial of schoolteacher Mr Norman Afzal Simons, in the Cape Supreme Court this morning.

The cousin, Ryno van Rooi, was with Elroy shortly before his disappearance on March 11 last year. Elroy's body was later found in bushes near the Kleinvlei cemetery with his tracksuit pants tied around his neck.

Mr Simons has pleaded not guilty to kidnapping Elroy, sodomising him and murdering him.

Johnny du Plooy in court

JOHANNESBURG: Former heavyweight boxing champion Johnny du Plooy and a colleague, arrested at the weekend for possession of cocaine and a cocaine pipe, were granted R500 bail each in the District Court here yesterday.

The men were not asked to plead and will be charged with illegal possession of scheduled drugs

Scripps: No trial date

SINGAPORE: Alleged British killer Mr John Martin

Gender group delay criticised

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CT 31/5/95

JOHANNESBURG: The Association of Law Societies (ALS) has lashed out at the delay in establishing a commission on gender equality, saying it is time the long legacy of "gross discrimination" against women is overcome.

Women, especially African women, have suffered discrimination at the hands of apartheid and the patriarchal system of customary law, which is why the Interim Constitution made provision for a gender commission, says an editorial in the June edition of the ALS journal De Rebus.

"Sadly, slightly more than a year after the commencement of the constitution, little progress appears to have been made towards the establishment of the gender commission."

It was hard to understand why

Bank reports difficulty in financing farmers

Adrian Hadland

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RD 31/5/95

CAPE TOWN — The Land and Agricultural Bank of SA said yesterday it was experiencing difficulties in financing emerging agricultural producers.

In its annual report for 1994, tabled in Parliament yesterday, the bank decried the lack of a "workable mechanism" to provide emerging producers with affordable financing.

"Doubt still exists as to the manner in which the emerging producer will be established in agriculture."

Structural limitations, which made access to farming land difficult, inadequate aid measures for newcomers and limitations in technology, training, marketing and financing all militated against the emerging producer.

"It is inconceivable that the bank will be able to provide direct finance to the full spectrum of emerging farmers with its present infrastructure."

The bank, which receives no state funding and relies on the money and capital markets for funds, said it had granted loans of R917,9m to producers last year.

Of this, R226,1m had been lent to beginner producers under the age of 35 and R67,4m to producers phasing into fulltime farming.

Careful note had to be taken of "the extent of the proposed transaction, the purchase price as well as the necessary funds which the applicant has available from own resources measured against the viability of the farming venture to be established".

The bank noted a significant reduction in arrears owed to it by agricultural producers over the year.

"The total arrears as on December 31 1994 averaged 3,61% of the capital outstanding against 5,71% the previous year and 7,18% for 1992."

AGRICULTURE - GENERAL

1995

JUNE - AUGUST

or step towards land reform

Curb placed on evictions

30/6
sowetan
2/6/95

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

LABOUR tenants will from today have legal protection from eviction and the Government will provide opportunities for such tenants to buy the land they live on — if they want to.

A bill was published yesterday providing protective tenancy which, in terms of the legislation, means that "labour tenants cannot be unfairly evicted by the farmer, but that the farmer has remedies if the labour tenant is guilty of misconduct".

The memorandum to the bill explains: "The current situation has been marked by murders of tenants and farmers, strikes, marches, evictions and boycotts as well as long, bitter and expensive legal battles, fence cutting, cattle theft, arson, violence and threats of violence."

Introducing the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill yesterday, Minister of Land Affairs Mr Derek Hanekom said the bill would hopefully, bring and end to the archaic semi-feudal system that has existed for decades, stop evictions and bring to an end the violence that has characterised the relationship

between labour tenants and farm owners.

Hanekom said the Government's work did not end at providing legal rights to labour tenants, but that they could, eventually, access Government assistance in the form of subsidies and support.

His deputy, Mr Tobie Meyer, also said yesterday that it was not inconceivable that the present labour tenant could buy the entire farm upon which they live.

"That would make a wonderful contribution towards land reform in this country," Meyer said.

There are an estimated 30 to 40 000 labour tenant families in the country. These people work on farms for no cash remuneration, but for the right to use a section of the farm, mostly for subsistence farming.

Labour tenancy is widespread in the South Eastern Transvaal and in parts of KwaZulu-Natal and since the early 1990s farmers have been evicting labour tenants on an unprecedented scale.

The bill will be effective tomorrow in the form that it will be passed by Parliament at a later date. This means that as from today no labour tenants can be evicted — even before the bill has been passed into law.

The Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill is published today. Jo-Anne Collinge reflects on the wrongs the critical legislation sets out to right.

Landing a fair deal for

On June 16 1913 Lord Gladstone signed the Natives' Land Act and, as people's historian Sol Plaatje bitterly reflected, made it "criminal for anyone to have black tenants and lawful to have black servants".

Hundreds of thousands of black people were driven off farms and turned into vagrants over night. Independent tenant farmers, who had paid their rent in cash or by sharing their crops with the registered landowner, found the sole lawful "currency" left was themselves.

"The only way to preserve some measure of independent farming activity was to become labour tenants," explains Anika Claassens of the Wits University Centre for Applied Legal Studies, who was closely involved in drafting the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill.

"In terms of the old system, labour tenants had to provide the white 'owner' of the land with free labour for half of the year."

Servitude

Today, nearly 82 years on, the publication of the new Bill finally offers an alternative to the forced removal route out of the feudal system of land tenure based on servitude. The proposed law entitles labour tenants to purchase the portion of land which their families have worked for two, three or even more generations.

It recognises a right to ownership which cannot be subverted by the absence of a "willing seller", since the Land Claims Court can enforce a sale where the owner is reluctant.

Whether the sale is voluntary or forced, the owner is entitled to fair compensation.

The Bill also regulates the relationship between owner and labour tenant in the period prior to purchase. It sets out very clearly when the tenant may be lawfully evicted and when an eviction would be a breach of law.

Any lawful eviction must include compensating the labour tenant for the buildings and other improvements he or she has contributed to the farm.

The proposed law does not apply to farmworkers in general. It does not cover those who fall clearly into the class of wage labourers. It aims at a very narrow class of people where the exchange of labour for the right to plough and keep livestock on a portion of the land is the essence of the contract.

This system was, in fact, out-

lawed by National Party governments on a district-by-district basis from the mid-60s. And this resulted in the removal of more than one million people. The practice now only survives on any scale in parts of KwaZulu-Natal and the South-Eastern Transvaal. And the Bill also applies only to districts within these regions.

The Ministry of Land Affairs hopes that its new law will douse rather than fan the flames of conflict that have flared with increasing regularity in labour tenancy areas.

"Tenants and their families resisting eviction have been intimidated, and farmers have complained of retaliatory acts of fence-cutting, cattle theft and starting of fires," Claassens points out. Disputes have swelled into mass action, such as strikes, boycotts and demonstrations.

There have been deaths on both sides. For instance, young Ehek Mlangeni, whose uncle refused to vacate their south-eastern Transvaal farm, was beaten to death last year by a group of whites.

Deep fears

In Weenen, the mass eviction of labour tenants resulted some months ago in cattle being strung up, fences ripped down and two farmers killed.

There is, without doubt, deep fear on both sides. There has been panic among owners who believed that they might simply lose their land under an ANC government. This fuelled the rate of evictions as farm owners tried by all means to rid themselves of potential land claimants.

And the evictions touched an even deeper well of fear in the labour tenants themselves. Ejection meant a complete loss of shelter, livelihood and the total accumulated "wealth" of a lifetime's hard labour.

"One of the terms of labour tenancy is that families must build their own homes," Claassens points out. "They do this in the legitimate expectation that the contract will remain in force for generations to come as it has for generations gone by."

"They invest their labour and money in establishing homesteads, orchards, cattle kraals and fields. Their most important investment, and the only source of cash on which they can rely in times of emergency, is their cattle. Evicted labour tenants have

nowhere to go where they will find adequate grazing for their cattle ...

But eviction is also often the loss of something lovely and precious in an otherwise harsh existence. Sonto Dladla was getting at this when, under threat of eviction in 1988, she insisted that the newspapers must "tell them that my parents are buried there and so are my three children that died".

Often labour tenants can trace their family's occupation of a particular piece of land way back to before white conquest and settlement. They have a profound feeling that the land "is theirs despite the arrival of other, formally recognised, owners."

The feeling for this land includes a traditional regard for the ancestors, but it goes beyond this. The farm is also infused with a more contemporary sense of family, often a large, extended family whose members have supported each other through adversity. And the cluster of buildings, the kraals and the gardens speak of the habits of that family.

For all these reasons, the drafters of the legislation say, it is not possible to resolve matters by simply shipping the tenants out and offering them a chance to buy into some State-acquired tract of land. Such a solution, they point out, would be little better than apartheid era forced removals.

Subsidies

The efficacy of alternative envisaged will depend, however, on the Government's willingness to put its money where its mouth is. Unless labour tenants are able to get subsidies similar to those on offer for housing in urban areas, the legal promise of land will be empty.

How the affected farmers and organised agriculture will react to the Bill is hard to predict.

Over the years, the South African Agricultural Union lobbied the National Party government for the eradication of labour tenancy, arguing that it was a "backward" form of tenure which should make way for more modern and productive approaches.

As Claassens points out, some of the large forestry companies have already voluntarily entered into sale arrangements with their labour tenants on their vast plantations or even given them a portion of the land as an outright gift.



Land for labour ... a feudal remnant.

How many other landowners will be equally attracted by the idea that a land settlement will buy the precious condition of security remains to be seen.

One thing is certain: there is

unlikely to be any escape route, no hasty evasion through mass evictions. The Bill prevents this by a special provision which makes it effective from today — the day of publication — and not

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Land for labour . . . a feudal remnant. A new law is about to change this system.

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unlikely to be any escape route,
 no hasty evasion through mass
 evictions. The Bill prevents this
 by a special provision which
 makes it effective from today —
 the day of publication — and not

from the date of enactment.

Some opposition to the Bill is
 surely inevitable. But it is equal-
 ly well to recall that in 1913 as
 Sol Plaatje wandered about with
 the wretched victims of the Land

Act, he came across a very rare
 but undiluted sense of justice
 among the landowners.

He recalled that Mr V, the
 owner of Dashfontein, told his
 workers he was prepared to defy

the Land Act because "the good
 Lord, who has always blessed
 us, will turn His face away from
 us if people are unsettled and
 sent away from the farm in a
 discontented mood".

Modise to meet Lohatla clans

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Minister of Defence Joe Modise is to initiate fresh talks with the communities staking a claim to almost half of the vast Army Battle School at Lohatla in the Northern Cape.

A Ministry of Land Affairs spokesman said this course of action was decided upon at an urgent meeting between Modise and Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom on Wednesday.

The meeting followed a failed attempt last week by about 40 members of one of the land-claiming communities — the Maremane — to reoccupy their ancestral land at Lohatla.

The spokesman was unable to indicate whether Modise's undertaking to reopen talks with the Maremane, Gathose and Khosis communities was a sign that he had rejected a proposed settlement which would have left a large part of the base in the hands of the communities.

~~1~~ (3) Star 2/6/95

Workers get special protection

Draft Land Bill limits evictions

Star 2/6/95 (3) (A) (Z)

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Farm workers will have immediate protection from eviction while draft legislation on land reforms goes through the parliamentary process.

The draft Bill puts strict limits on the circumstances in which labour tenants can be evicted from the farms on which they are tenants.

The unusual move has been made effective from the moment of publication for comment in today's Government Gazette.

In the major reform, the draft Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill also provides for the forced sale of privately owned farmland to tenants in parts of Kwa-Zulu-Natal and the south-eastern Transvaal.

Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom described the eviction of labour tenants yesterday as "one of the most difficult and pressing issues" he had faced.

"These evictions have left labour tenants and their families without alternative accommodation, without any effective means of making a living, and often without recourse to the law."

The lack of a clear legal framework and mechanisms to resolve disputes had given rise to conflict and violence, he added. The Bill was intended to fill this vacuum and enable government to act decisively.

The majority of farm workers and owners will not be affected by this first clear move by the Government beyond the realms of land restitution and into the territory of redistribution.

The Bill only covers a narrow category of farmworkers and landowners who are locked into the outmoded labour tenancy practice.

It proposes that a labour tenant will have the right to "acquire ownership or another right in the land which he or she

and his or her family use as a dwelling ... habitually use for cultivating produce and ... for grazing".

It provides for this purchase to take place voluntarily and stipulates that the landowner should be paid "just and equitable compensation".

Only when tenant and owner cannot agree on the sale and on the price will the Land Claims Court come into the picture.

Drafters of the Bill expect that purchases will proceed slowly and that the availability of State subsidies for tenant-purchasers will be central to the workability of the scheme.

For this reason, and in order to stem conflict arising from the evictions, the Bill also attempts to provide stability in the tenancy situation by stipulating procedures to be followed before an eviction may take place.

► **Landing a fair deal**
- Page 11

Labour tenants get right to buy

(7) (3)

CT 2/6/95

DRAFT legislation giving about 30'000 labour tenants the right to buy farmland they have historically occupied and used will be gazetted today.

Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill would also protect tenants who could not immediately afford to buy land by placing a moratorium on evictions.

In a bid to prevent mass evictions before the bill was passed, the sections protecting tenants would apply from publication in today's Government Gazette rather than the date of enactment.

Inherent problems

Mr Hanekom said the bill addressed particular problems inherent in the labour tenancy system in parts of kwaZulu/Natal and the South-Eastern Transvaal and would not apply to all farmworkers.

It aimed to protect tenants from arbitrary and unfair evictions, while also providing independent land rights to resolve historical claims.

A farmer might not evict a tenant unless the latter had breached the labour tenancy contract, was guilty of misconduct, or the farmer had specific needs for the land.

Evicted tenants would have to be compensated for houses they had built and for crops not reaped.

Tenants' right to acquire land would be subject to compensation for the landowner. —Sapa

Evictions 'most difficult issue'

CF 2/6/95

THE eviction of labourers from farms had been one of the most difficult and pressing issues he had faced in his year in office, Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

The lack of a clear legal framework had led to conflict and violence between landowners and labour tenants and had blurred the differences between fair and unfair evictions, he said.

Eviction had left labour tenants and their families without alternative accommodation, without any

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effective means of making a living, and often without recourse to the law.

The government intended to bring an end to evictions in an orderly manner and ultimately to do away with the country's archaic labour tenancy system.

Mr Hanekom called on all interested parties, particularly members of the farming community — both landowners and tenants — to comment on the proposed Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill before July. — Sapa

Proposed agriculture Bill comes under fire

Louise Cook

(3) BO 2/6/95

SERIOUS disagreements on the Draft Marketing of Agricultural Products Bill emerged at a special workshop on the issue in Pretoria yesterday.

Some participants argued for the scrapping of legislation governing agricultural marketing, but chairman Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk called for the retention of an Act. He said the general consensus from public comment received on the Draft Bill came out in favour of "some form" of statutory marketing.

The more contentious issues contained in the Draft Bill were the proposed Agricultural Marketing Authorities to replace marketing boards and the continued imposition of compulsory levies for some commodities.

The Natal Agriculture Union said many farmers did not accept an Act because it did not uphold their constitutional right of freedom to disassociate.

Safex agricultural marketing division spokesman John Wixley supported "limited intervention" to deal with crises. He said there could be justification for an Act only to deal with drought, to level the international playing fields and to give support to previously disadvantaged groups. The Exporters and Growers Against Regulation (EGAR) supported Wixley.

However, EGAR slammed the existing single-channel fruit export arrangements. Spokesman Rob Snaddon said statutory measures had enabled "monopolies to be formed and disguise themselves as private enterprise".

The KwaZulu/Natal legislature called for "limited intervention" controlled by the regions.

National Maize Producers' Organisation director Kit le Clus told the Minister to appoint a special working group to probe the compatibility of the Draft Marketing of Agricultural Products Bill with the Constitution.

South African Agriculture Union spokesman Hans van der Merwe supported the existence of an Act to regulate marketing. He said Parliament would be "caught in a flood" of commodity legislation if there was no Act.

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Gauteng heading for tougher waste laws

BD 2/6/95 (5)

Michael Moon

LEGISLATION to force companies to produce less waste in their manufacturing processes was under investigation by the Gauteng government, the province's development planning, environment and works MEC Siculo Shiceka said this week.

The Gauteng legislature had recently acquired from central government the necessary powers to enact environmental legislation, Shiceka said.

He also said he would be convening a meeting this month of all interested parties to discuss the "burning issue" of hazardous waste disposal in the province.

The intention was to get various groups — from local communities to disposal experts — to reach consensus on a 25-year plan for waste disposal in the province.

He also intended arranging discussions on whether waste dis-

posal in Gauteng should be handled by the private sector, or whether government should assume responsibility for it.

These announcements come against the backdrop of a continuing controversy over waste landfill sites in the Greater Johannesburg area, and the closure last month of Waste-tech's Margolis site in terms of a Supreme Court order. The unavailability of the Margolis site precipitated a crisis in the region as hazardous industrial and medical waste began piling up.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal has intervened in a bid to get the landfill and a nearby incinerator reopened. While the incinerator is currently dealing with the medical waste backlog, legal opinion on reopening the landfill is still awaited.

Shiceka said the question of whether to proceed with the landfill method of disposal, and where to site such facilities, would be

discussed at this month's meeting. The option of using incinerators to get rid of hazardous waste would also be studied.

The possibility of commissioning Waste-tech's unused, R12m Chloorkop landfill, once Margolis was officially closed at the end of the year, would have to be discussed "with an open mind".

Chloorkop has never been used, as a result of public protests and a dispute over zoning of the area.

Shiceka said a final decision on Chloorkop would have to rest with "the people", but added that they had to be "realistic" about Gauteng's urgent waste disposal needs. It was a "very sensitive matter" which thorough consultation would have to resolve.

He said further talks on who should be responsible for waste disposal would weigh up the issues of private enterprise possibly cutting corners to maximise profit, and the possibility of public sector inefficiencies.

Environment department 'underfunded'

BD 2/6/95

Michael Moon

THE Environmental Affairs and Tourism Department was a "weak, underfunded department which lacked capacity and professional expertise", according to much evidence presented to the Lorimer committee investigating the restructuring of the Council for the Environment.

In a statement yesterday, the department said evidence had also indicated that it was "unable to attract the necessary compe-

tent personnel required to perform its duties adequately".

The department said the findings of the Lorimer committee would be made public on Monday, World Environment Day, by Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers.

The committee was appointed in September last year to probe the need for, and the composition and activities of, an advisory body such as the Council for the Environment. Former DP environment spokesman Rupert Lor-

imer was appointed as the committee chairman.

The committee discovered during its work that the nature of many of the submissions put before it went beyond the scope of its brief.

After discussions between Lorimer and De Villiers, the minister agreed to extensions to the brief, "where the committee considered comment to have relevance to environmental systems as a whole", the department said.

Lt Deon Peen found on a N

Right- Kevin O'Gr

TWO known links to the W- staat Party Nigel Magis morning after home-made planned for November's on a Nigel fa Lt Deon Pe

Ministry still to decide on land claim

Stephane Bothma

DEFENCE Minister Joe Modise was awaiting a National Land Committee progress report before any decision would be taken regarding a claim by the Maremane community to part of the Army Battle School at Lohatla in the Northern Cape.

A ministry spokesman confirmed that a meeting took place between Modise and Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom on Wednesday.

The Lohatla issue had been discussed, but no decisions had been taken, he said.

However, a decision by the ministry was expected soon.

A group of about 40 land claimants attempted to reoccupy the land last weekend, but were removed by provincial officials this week.

Squatter shacks erected just outside the Army Battle School were removed by the provincial administration and the police on Tuesday.

Three communities, the Maremane, the Gathose and the Khosis, have claims to various parts of the school.

Hanekom earlier said he recognised the right of all three claimant communities to the land concerned.

The Gathose and Maremane were removed in the context of apartheid laws and irrespective of any compensation received by them, theirs was a legitimate restitution case, he said. The ball was now in the court of the defence ministry.

Land deal mooted for labour tenants

Tim Cohen

(3) (4) BD 2/6/95

CAPE TOWN — The Land Affairs Department yesterday published proposed legislation which would allow up to 40 000 labour tenants to buy the land they occupied with government assistance — with or without the agreement of the landowner.

The proposals effectively implement a moratorium against the eviction of labour tenants by giving tenants a right to reclaim their land.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said the Cabinet had approved the draft legislation for comment to provide an opportunity for the matter to be fully debated. It was government's intention to bring evictions of the labour tenants to an end in an orderly manner and ultimately to do away with the "archaic system".

The legislation gives second-generation, existing labour tenants the right to acquire ownership of the land they have historically used. The right to acquisition is subject to the payment of compensation to the

landowner according to the compensation formula in the constitution. Hanekom said that according to rough estimates, the programme would cost no more than R200m.

"Pragmatic and negotiated solutions" are encouraged, giving the landowner the opportunity to put forward alternative proposals on the location of the land to be acquired and providing for mediation.

A background document distributed by the land affairs department said from the early 1990s farmers began to evict labour tenants in certain areas on an unprecedented scale. The reason for this was the expectation that the new government would introduce legislation to protect the rights of labour tenants. Thereafter, the situation had been marked by murders of tenants and farmers, strikes, expensive legal battles, cattle theft, arson and violence.

Although moratoriums had been declared in some provinces, they were impossible to enforce as individual farmers remained legally entitled to evict. This had necessitated new legislation.

SA farmers planning to move into Mozambique

(3) (226) ARCT 3/6/95
MAPUTO. — A group of South African farmers plans to invest in agricultural and tourist operations in the northern Mozambican province of Niassa, state radio reported this week.

The province contains some of the most spectacular countryside in Mozambique, notably along the shores of Lake Niassa, which are largely undeveloped.

Radio Mozambique said the farmers wanted to turn the lakeside beaches of Meponda and Chiwanga into tourist resorts.

They also hoped to develop fruit orchards near Lichinga, the provincial capital, and at Chicononó in Mueembe district.

The farmers told the provincial administration that they could also cultivate cotton in Marrupa

in the same province.

Mozambique's Minister of Agriculture Carlos Agostinho do Rosario said steps had already been taken to set up mechanisms of understanding and the guidelines under which co-operation with South Africa would take place.

"Everything is under discussion — the location, the kind of activity, the size of the areas to be conceded, and fiscal and commercial matters," said Mr Do Rosario.

Last year the conservative white farmers said they were investigating moves to countries including Mozambique, Angola, Gabon, and Congo. Some have already moved to Zambia, where they have been welcomed with open arms. — Reuter.

Reform Bill 'confiscating land'

ARG 3/6/95

JOHANNESBURG. — The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) says the proposed Land Reform Bill makes a mockery of property rights and "practically amounts to the confiscation of land in favour of farm workers".

SAAU president Boet Fourie said Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom had "failed to give any consideration to the interests of land owners" in the proposed legislation, which places a moratorium on the eviction of labour tenants — people who exchange work for the right to farm a small piece of land.

Mr Hanekom announced the R200 million scheme to give labour tenants security of tenure and help them to acquire ownership of the land they farm.

Mr Hanekom told reporters that the

(3) (4) (5) (6) (7)
scheme could help to turn 30 000 to 40 000 labour tenants in the Eastern Transvaal and the north of KwaZulu-Natal into successful farmers.

"Why doesn't the minister also place a moratorium on the violation of the property rights of the affected farmers?" Mr Fourie asked. "As so often in the past, the minister has chosen to ignore these problems."

The bill, which was published for discussion yesterday, proposes to give labour tenants the right to security of tenure and, if they wish, to buy land they currently farm.

"It's land the tenants are farming now, land the farmer does not use," Mr Hanekom said. "The tenants have probably paid for the land over and over again through the generations with their work." — Sapa.

State warned not to ignore farmers' concerns

TYRONE SEALE (3)
Weekend Argus Political Staff

AGRICULTURE Minister Kraai van Niekerk has warned that farmers will halt production unless the state provides the kind of support that will ensure profits for the country's food producers.

Speaking in the national assembly debate on his budget vote, Dr Van Niekerk said without the right support from the state it would not be long before the agricultural sector was destroyed.

"If a farmer does not make a profit from what he produces, he will stop pro-

duction, and then there'll be nothing."

Dr Van Niekerk insisted the biggest mistake the government could make would be to give the agricultural sector a cold shoulder, to be insensitive to the problems faced by this sector, and to let achievements in agriculture go unnoticed.

Where political problems enjoyed priority over problems in agriculture, this lead to famine and misery, he said.

Dr Van Niekerk said he was pleading, in the national interest, for ordinary South Africans and political leaders to go easy on farmers.

Annually, agricultural goods destined

ARG 3/6/95
for the markets totalled R28 billion, or five percent of the gross domestic product. During 1993 the agricultural sector bought production inputs from other sectors in the economy to the tune of R10,3 billion.

The agricultural manufacturing industry was also responsible for 23 percent of the manufacturing sector's exports. Dr Van Niekerk said the agricultural sector was an important employer in its own right, as commercial farmers employed a million workers and it was estimated that more than six million people depended on farming for their livelihood.

SA aid to restore dam scheme

Weekend Argus
Diplomatic Correspondent

3 ARLT 3/6/95

A SOUTH African delegation led by Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad is visiting the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme in Mozambique.

South Africa is to be a partner in the rehabilitation of the scheme, long out of action because of the civil war.

A Foreign Affairs spokesman said rehabilitation of the scheme

had major political and economic benefits for South Africa and was part of a southern African "power pool" concept promoted by the South African government.

It would have a significant impact on economic and social upliftment in the region.

Mr Pahad will also hand over South African-financed vocational training centres to the Mozambican government as a contribution to the peace process.

Free of permits, ostriches take off

THE deregulation of the ostrich trade 18 months ago has opened up the market to hundreds of new producers who are benefiting from South Africa's domination of the world industry.

Until October 1993, a single-channel marketing system operated under control of the Oudtshoorn-based Klein Karoo Co-operative, which administered the slaughtering and sale of SA ostrich products overseas. Since 1993, however, producers in the Eastern Cape, Transvaal and North Cape have entered the industry.

In the past five years, the sale of ostrich products by Klein Karoo's 700 members involved in ostrich farming rocketed from R106-million to R246-million last year. In 1994, the sale of skins fetched R196-million compared with R76-million in 1990, meat sales rose to R33-million from R19-million and

By DON ROBERTSON

feathers to R16-million from R10-million.

Despite sanctions about 85% of ostrich products were exported and in 1994 foreign exchange earnings amounted to R189-million.

In 1970 Klein Karoo slaughtered 26 000 birds. This rose to 150 000 in 1993 and to 200 000 last year, while the price of an average quality skin has risen to an average R1 100, and as much as R1 800 for the best quality.

There are about 250 000 ostriches in the Little Karoo, representing an investment of about R200-million. The capital replacement cost of equipment is estimated at R70-million.

Attie de Waal, general manager of Klein Karoo, says slaughter birds fetch between R1 600 and R1 900 each while a breeding bird will cost as much as R16 000.

The ostrich industry collapsed in 1914, when feathers, then its mainstay, lost their fashion appeal. The industry was resurrected in 1958 when the government introduced a single-channel marketing system which was administered by Klein Karoo.

New markets were developed for ostrich products internationally and the local industry invested heavily in plant and other facilities.

Prior to this, Japan had been the only market, but new outlets were developed in the Far East, Europe and America and the Paris branch of a major advertising agency was appointed to promote ostrich leather and feathers to the world fashion market.

By the end of the 1980s, the marketing success of the industry had put existing facilities operated by Klein Karoo under pressure and a larger abattoir, dedicated to the export market, was built at a cost

of R14-million and the capacity of the tannery was almost doubled.

While deregulation has opened up the local market, overseas countries such as Israel, the US and Australia are also increasing their breeding stock. These industries are in their infancy, says Chris Coetzee, Klein Karoo's chairman, but their activities could affect the market in the next few years.

"The chances of the international market being destabilised by new entrants continue to be great.

"The solution will be to expand markets and to find new ones and broaden the uses of ostrich products," he says. The co-operative will also market its brand name more aggressively in world markets.

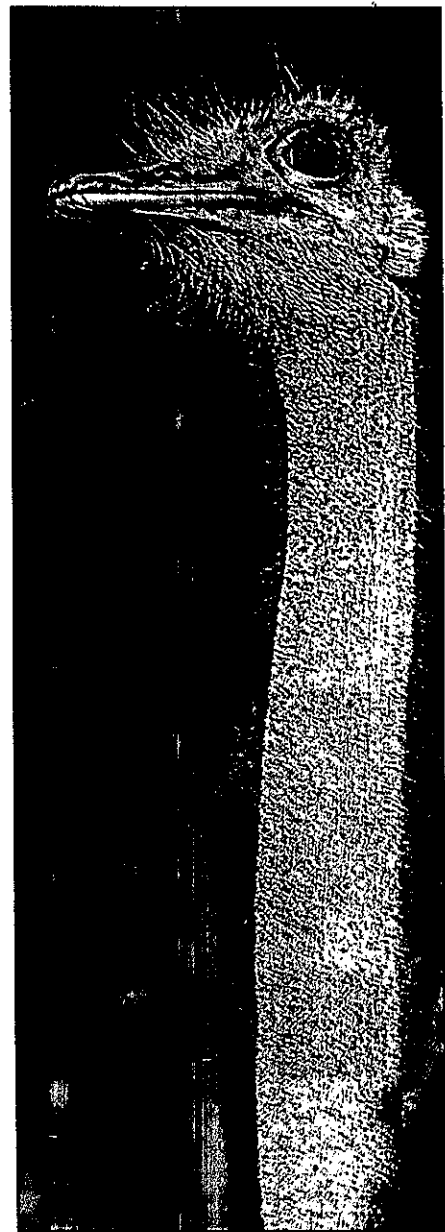
Mr de Waal is concerned that over-production will affect the world market and skin prices.

Ostrich leather is marketed as an exotic leather because of its limited availability and over-production would result in much lower prices.

A higher price for the meat, prized for its low cholesterol, would not compensate producers as ostriches yield only about 25kg of deboned meat a head, says Mr de Waal.

Another problem facing South Africa's virtual control of the world market has been smuggling, mainly through Namibia. This has largely been halted, while demand, mainly from America, has dried up.

Earlier this year, South Africa granted a permit to Botswana to export 15 000 eggs or birds through South Africa.



IN THE HAND: breeding birds sell for R16 000 each

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CAMDEV

State to protect tenants

By RAY HARTLEY
Parliamentary Correspondent

LAND Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom has cleared the way for some 40 000 labour tenants in Kwazulu Natal and the Eastern Transvaal to acquire the land they have been farming, often for generations.

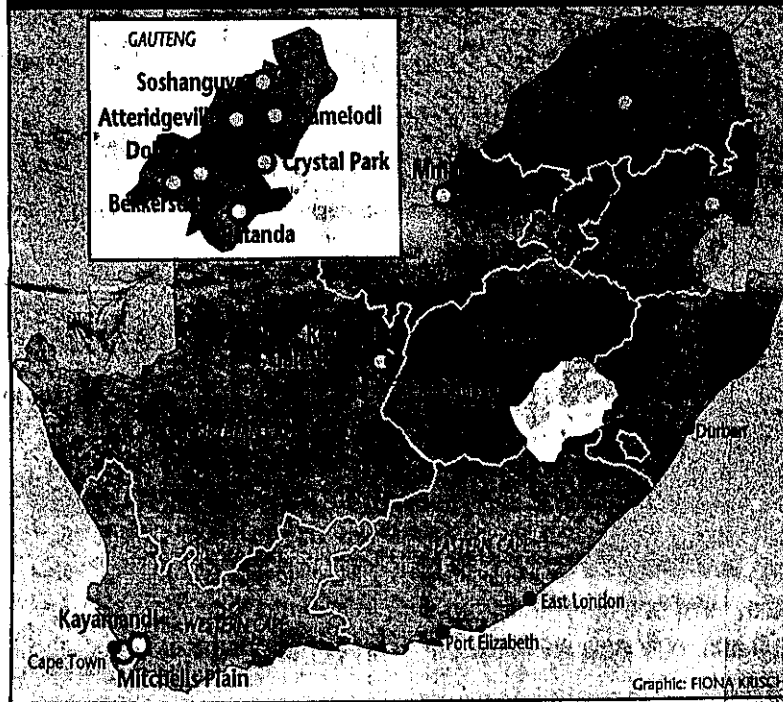
Draft legislation published for comment this weekend will make it illegal for farmers to evict labour tenants from the land they occupy and "rent" from farmers by exchanging their labour, putting

ST 4/6/95
an end to a long conflict on farms in these areas.

The Bill provides for "protective tenancy", which means that "tenants cannot be evicted simply because the owner decides to give them notice, but only when the tenants have breached the contract or are guilty of misconduct, or the owner has very specific needs for the land," a Land Affairs document says.

The Bill entitles labour tenants to "purchase the portion of land occupied from the farmer with the assistance of a state subsidy," the document says.

NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSING SCHEME



'Scrap property rights'

By RAY HARTLEY
Parliamentary
Correspondent

COSATU general secretary Sam Shilowa has called for a redrafting of the Bill of Rights to exclude a clause protecting property rights and to bolster the right of workers to strike without restriction.

Addressing a hearing organised by the Constitutional Assembly in Kempton Park yesterday, Mr Shilowa said: "We don't believe that the right to property belongs in our constitution. To constitutionally entrench property rights would perpetuate existing patterns of inequality ad infinitum."

Mr Shilowa said property rights were limiting the implementation of "many aspects of the Reconstruc-

tion and Development Programme

He said the right to strike needed to be entrenched, but without the reciprocal right of employers to lock out striking workers. "All references to lockouts should be excluded from the constitution," he said.

The right to strike needed to be extended to include strikes aimed at criticising government policies, as outlined in a report by the International Labour Office.

Cosatu's proposed clause read: "Organised workers shall have the right to strike to promote and defend the social and economic interests of workers."

The right to picket on

employers' premises should be written into the constitution, invalidating apartheid-era by-laws.

"The right to strike should not be subject to any limitation," he said. The interim constitution's clause allowing the right to strike to be suspended during a state of emergency should not be included in the final constitution.

"Even under brutal apartheid rule, that was not taken away," he added.

Also under fire was the interim constitution's right to disassociate. "The ILO leaves the question of closed-shop arrangements to individual nations to decide and does not deem the closed shop and agency shop an infringement of freedom of association," Mr Shilowa said.

(3) ST 4/6/95



MARCHING ORDERS . . . SANDF soldiers take a break during a leadership course at the disputed Lohatla Battle School in the Northern Cape last week.

■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE

SA Army goes European

THE FIRST large military exercise on South African soil involving a major European power will be held in October and November at the Lohatla Battle School in the Northern Cape.

Lohatla spokesman Lt-Col Braam van Wyk would not name the European country, expected to send a regiment. About one-and-a-half South African Army divisions as well as air force and navy detachments are to take part in the exercise. - Sapa

Army base occupied

B CP 4/6/95

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THE Northern Cape community of Maremane this week decided to re-occupy the Lohatla army base from which they claim to have originally been evicted by the former SA Defence Force.

The re-occupation follows the community's anger over the SA National Defence Force's decision to lease part of the "disputed" land to white farmers in the Northern Cape.

As tension over the re-occupation of land mounted, the Ministry of Defence and Land Affairs hurriedly met on Wednesday to find a compromise on the ownership of Lohatla.

The Land Affairs department has already indicated that it is in favour of the communities getting back their land.

Land Affairs director Dries Potgieter told City Press his department had already recommended that the communities get back their land they had traditionally occupied.

This proposal, according to Land Affairs spokesman Helmut Schlenker, was struck on April

19 and accepted by all parties in principle.

He said it had been agreed that the Ministry of Defence should take that proposal back to the communities.

According to sources, the SANDF should have avoided the re-occupation by taking the proposals to the communities.

"The invasion was a due a long wait by the communities. Nothing came from the SANDF," City Press was told.

Contrary

Contrary to what the communities claim, the SANDF last month claimed the land was expropriated from white farmers in 1978.

The National Land Committee (NLC) strongly criticised the SANDF saying negotiations were currently underway to restore the land to its rightful owners when the SANDF gave it to farmers.

"In terms of the Restitution Act, it is illegal to lease or allocate land that has a claim pending. In the past, the SANDF has

denied communities access to visit ancestral graves.

"We find it problematic that the SANDF is now able to give land to white farmers. We see this as blatant racism on the part of the SANDF," said the NLC's Nomfundo Lumphondwana.

According to Lumphondwana the Khosis, Maremane and Gathlose communities were forcibly removed in 1977 and moved to the former Bophuthatswana homeland. The aim, according to NLC, was to establish the Lohatla Battle School.

"The NLC finds it highly improper and out of order for the army to take unilateral decisions without consulting the working group and while there are negotiations involving all parties taking place," said Lumphondwana.

In a statement she said the working group which comprises the army, community representatives, Department of Housing and the NLC, had been specifically set up to resolve land claims disputes in this area.

'THERE are certain natives . . . who absolutely refuse to be servants. They are fairly well to do, and they want a portion of the farm to sow on shared. They have their youngsters to look after their stock, and they are themselves free to go about and do what they like . . . When the boy has his whole piece of ground to sow and is given a half of the crops, he is not a servant but a partner - a master.' - A Ficksburg farmer, quoted in *The Right To Land*, David Philip, Cape Town.

END OF SLAVERY

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CP4/6/95

PROFESSOR Jakes Gerwel, Cabinet secretary, put it like this: "This is part of our post-apartheid - one could almost say post-feudal - land reform."

Apartheid South Africa's unique system of labour tenancy was structured from the 1913 Land Act - which introduced a programme whereby people were given access to land by working for the white farmer.

The system did not involve an exchange of cash. The farmer did not pay wages. Terms of payment were negotiated around the size of lands workers could plough and the number of cattle they could keep.

In other words, you exchanged your labour for land - and what it meant was that black people were only allowed to live legally on rural land in white areas if they were full time labourers.

Between 1966 and 1980 this was replaced by a system of straight wage labour. This change in law resulted in over one million black people being evicted from their homes in white rural areas and shuttled off into distant homelands.

White farmers manoeuvred around the law

THE fact that labour tenants were prepared to live and work under such trying conditions goes back to the Land Act of 1913, which prohibited black people from entering into contracts in leasing and sharecropping. An historical Bill tabled in Parliament on Friday will put an end to one of apartheid's most wicked forms of land control. RAFIQ ROHAN reports.

in the 1970s by paying nominal wages of R10 to R20 a month to comply with legal requirements. They limited areas labour tenants could use for grazing and fields.

Labour tenants were left vulnerable by the law and farmers took advantage of this vulnerability. In its original form the tenant contract required the labour of one able-bodied person. Now farmers could demand - and they did - the labour of up to four members of the labour tenant family.

Labour tenancy has slotted the workers into a lifestyle only suited to farm labour. Because they never earned wages, all their worldly possessions are bound up in the homesteads on the farms. When evicted, the labour tenant loses all the assets the family built up and handed down over the generations.

Many labour tenant districts are experiencing conflict of some sort:

■ Strikes are happening in Weenen, Estcourt and Piet Retief;

■ Land invasions occurred in Cramond and Baynesfield;

■ Legal battles are on in Vryheid, Cramond, Colenso and Baynesfield;

■ Violent clashes took place in Piet Retief, Cramond, Colenso and Weenen.

"Farmers sometimes use brutal force to evict tenants. Bheki Mhlangeni, the nephew of a man who refused to vacate a farm, was beaten to death by white people searching for his uncle. In response to a lack of police action a two-day stayaway and a series of marches was held by labour tenants in the Piet Retief and Wakkerstroom districts on 20 and 21 July, 1994."

The Land Affairs Min-

istry highlights other similar incidents in the motivation for changing the Land Act.

The new Bill aims at protecting existing rights of labour tenants - while giving labour tenants an opportunity to, if they were long-term occupants, acquire rights to land. It provides for protective tenure for labour tenants. It does not take away land which the landowner used before.

"The publication of this Bill will put into effect a moratorium on evictions," said Hanekom. "The legislation places at its centre the principles of human dignity, justice, equality and respect for the law."

The programme would enable labour tenants to become successful subsistence farm owners, he said.

A very rough estimate of the costs that government will incur in terms of the programme is R200 million and it will affect 30 000 to 40 000 people.

■ Hanekom called upon all interested parties, especially farmers and tenants "to make their voices heard on the subject". They have until July 14 1995 to make representations.

NEWS FEATURE *Returning land could be unaffordable if market value is main factor*

Reform to right past land wrongs

By Estelle Randall

■ GOVERNMENT'S SYSTEM

Nobody gets land for free:

U NRAVELLING South Africa's racially skewed land-holding pattern is one of the most sensitive and complex issues facing the new Government.

The Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill, tabled for public comment on June 1, is an attempt to address one of these complexities. The interim Constitution has set definite limits on how land reform may be carried out by stipulating that there can be no land expropriation without compensation.

For the Government's restitution programme, this means that if land claimants have land returned to them and the land is privately owned, the Government must compensate the current owner.

Several factors, including the property's market value and how it was acquired, will be taken into account when calculating compensation.

But the Constitution is silent on what weight should be given to the various factors when calculating compensation. If market value becomes the main determining factor, returning land to claimants could prove unaffordable.

There is presently no policy about how land should be valued and on land-pricing.

In the Government's redistribution programme, an important element is that nobody gets land for nothing. Currently, this means the state buys land at market value for beneficiaries who then contribute 20 percent of its sale price.

In this context, labour tenants are the most vulnerable group of beneficiaries. The Labour Tenants Bill addresses their main problems of insecure tenure and poverty.

Up to now, labour tenants were in a weak bargaining position in relation to landowners. The property clause in the interim Constitution entitled landowners to unilaterally withdraw occupational rights to tenants, regardless of how long they had lived on the land.

The Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, the Trespass Act and the civil eviction procedures could also be used to enforce evictions. By enshrining

the rights of labour tenants in law, the Bill aims to change this imbalance and to encourage parties to seek pragmatic, local solutions. This, the Government hopes, will avoid all responsibility for solving land disputes being dumped on it.

Finding acceptable local solutions is important because the problem of labour tenancy cannot be solved through the Government buying alternate land and resettling tenants there. Labour tenants generally want rights to specific pieces of land.

The Labour Tenants Bill and the Restitution of Land Rights Act entitled labour tenants to acquire land they have historically used and occupied, if the owner is compensated.

But the tenants, as one of the poorest groups of the South African labour force, are unlikely to be able to compensate landowners or to raise money to do so.

And while the Bill makes provision for the Government to pay this compensation, it is unlikely that the Gov-

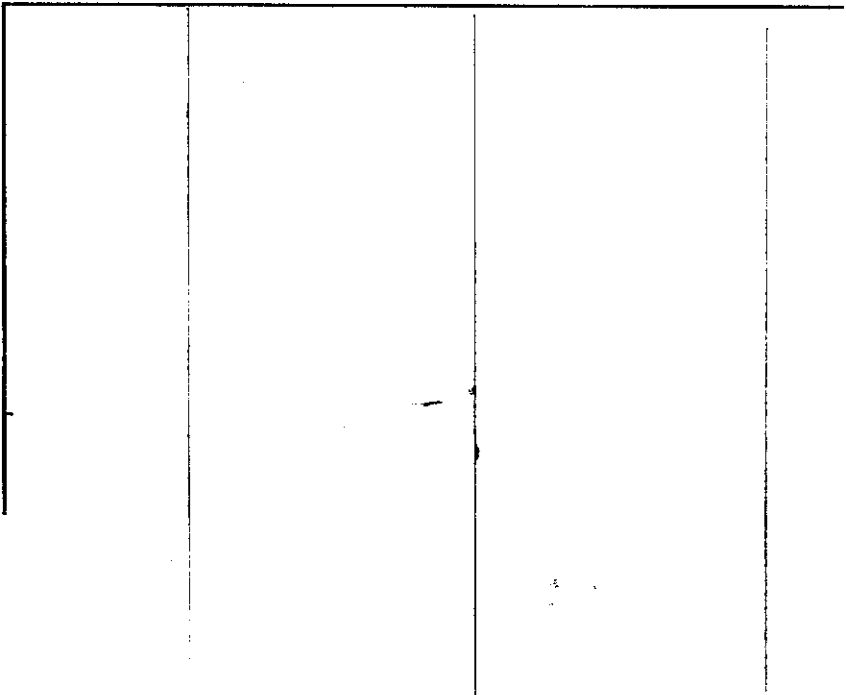
ernment will be able to do so for all labour tenants at once.
The protective tenancy provision, by making it more difficult for farmers to evict tenants, makes it more attractive for both tenants and farmers to seek mutually acceptable solutions to their land disputes.
In a motivation about the Bill, its drafters point out that the protective tenancy aspect and the right of long-term occupants to acquire rights to land are internationally accepted and widespread practices.
In South Africa, these aspects are contained in the Rent Control Act of 1976 and the upgrad-

ing of land rights laws introduced under the former government, such as the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act of 1991.

Because the practice of labour tenancy is limited to certain parts of the country, it is argued that the Bill will have no effect on productive farmers.

Farmers likely to be affected are those who are indebted and those who have not become competitive. So, if such farmers are affected adversely, there would be an economic loss to the country as a whole, the drafters say.

Sowetan 5/6/95



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Tillers of the soil demand rights

LONG DUE

*Customary law
deprives women
of ownership:*

DEREK HANEKOM, THE Minister of Land Affairs, says all institutions, practices and laws that obstructed women's access to land will be revised. But how much longer will women have to wait before they become landowners?

Environmentalist and women's rights activist Tsepo Khumbane feels that women have waited long enough and something should be done now. After all, women in rural areas form the bulk of subsistence food producers. And for the country's food sufficiency policy to work, those who work the land should be given the right to own it.

Deprived women

"Customary law has deprived women of the right to own land, yet they are the ones who till the soil. These laws must change and women must be given decision-making powers. Water and land is what we want. It's what we deserve," she says.

While she is aware of all the problems the Government of National Unity inherited and the importance it has attached to "women's issues", she also feels that things are not moving fast enough. Although land restitution, especially for victims of forced removals is already underway, women's rights to own land haven't been addressed as yet.

"Maybe this will be included in the new legislation," she says. "But in the meantime, how can people (most of them women) be expected to care for the environment when they don't even own the land? Women still have no land rights although they are the ones who work it. It's even worse for unmarried women because they cannot even get a plot for a homestead," she says.

A victim of forced removals herself, MaTsepo, as she is affectionately known, knows how it feels like to be landless. People from her community in Tshukudung were forcibly removed in 1958. That led to the complete breakdown of the community's social system. Subsistence farming, their source of livelihood, was destroyed.

"We were self-sufficient before the removals, but after that people just lost



MaTsepo knows how it feels to be landless.

interest in looking after the little land they had because it did not belong to them. You can only develop what you own — something you have invested your money and labour in. The fact that women cannot own land today is a major setback. They are key players with no rights, but are still expected to tackle environmental issues," she says.

For more than a decade, MaTsepo has been working with rural communities in the Northern Transvaal — first as a social worker and now as a field worker for the Environmental Development Agency (EDA). Being part of those communities, she knows what people's needs are. She also understands the women's frustrations are a result of customary laws, some of which oppress

women. "Women don't have any property rights. Under customary law, when the marriage dissolves and you are thrown out, you don't have any claim to any property. You cannot even claim maintenance for the children. You have to go back to your father's homestead with nothing.

This is not fair. It subordinates women."

But the lack of land rights for women is not the only thing that worries her. For communities to produce enough food, there has to be proper land use.

"We just have to go back to proper land use and use the methods we used in the past. I'm not suggesting turning back the clock, but I strongly feel that there are a lot of lessons we can learn

from the past on how to conserve the environment, check soil erosion and stop siltation of rivers and dams. For example, tree planting and inter-cropping could help achieve this.

"Land and water are important issues for rural communities. Although we expect the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) to bring water to our communities, we have to start doing something for ourselves. In the communities I work with, we are encouraging water harvesting, if and when it rains, to maximise food production. We can get water from our roofs, harness runaway water and avoid soil erosion using those traditional land use methods. We have to start using the land sustainably. And this can only happen if

we take care of our environment. This is a big challenge for women," says MaTsepo. She is also worried that although there are communities that have been very receptive to new ideas about conserving the environment, "there is still a lot of anti-social behaviour".

"Vandalism is a big problem because people who don't own anything don't have any respect for other people's property. We must restore social systems, but I'm not suggesting we go back to the dark ages."

While food security is an important issue for communities, most of them still don't have access to the land.

"Land remains inaccessible for most rural communities. There is an increased influx of people to rural areas, as more are being evicted from farms. Land previously meant for farming is diminishing, because some of it is now being used for houses and grazing. This should be addressed by the land redistribution programme," she says.

MaTsepo's environmental awareness programme includes tree planting — an ongoing all-year-round project. Apart from planting fruit and indigenous trees in one's backyard, this project includes "mobilising women and disseminating information about the important relationship between trees and the preservation of the environment.

"We also do skills training as part of our women and the environment programme. One group of women has started a nursery and distributes more than 1 000 plants a year. Plans to start a reforestation income-generating project are underway and we hope in three years' time, the group will be selling 50 000 trees."

"Organic food production is another area being tackled by women. It challenges the stereotype that women cannot be livestock farmers. We have women doing that," she says.

In Kangala and Onverwacht, peri-urban and rural settlements, respectively, MaTsepo is busy working with women on projects that encourage the recycling of household rubbish.

"We have to restore the quality of land that has been battered by many years of neglect. We bury all the household rubbish in trenches and use the compost for food production. But things like plastics are used to make handicrafts," says MaTsepo.

But maybe the most important thing is that she practises what she preaches.

For MaTsepo, every day is June 5 — Environmental Day.

But what would make her very happy is to see women own land during her lifetime.

R20M-A-YEAR CAMPAIGN

Two-cent water levy may help save supply

CTS/b/95

(21) (3)

ALIEN PLANTS such as pines use up vast amounts of water and could cost Cape Town 30% of its water supply, says a CSIR expert. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE Department of Water Affairs may impose a 2c levy on every cubic metre of water used by consumers to help pay for the R20-million-a-year project to eradicate alien vegetation in mountain catchment areas.

This was proposed by the Water Affairs managing engineer for planning, Mr Claus Triebel, when key policymakers in the city met on Friday to discuss the Western Cape's critical water supplies.

Dr Brian van Wilgen of the CSIR's Forestek division said that unlike indigenous fynbos, alien plants such as pines used up vast

amounts of water and were likely to reduce the water supply to Cape Town by 30%.

"We already have our backs to the wall — there is not enough water to sustain the economic growth of the region," Dr Van Wilgen said.

"If we put money into eradication now, we could bring the alien invasion under control within 10 years at a cost of R20 million a year," he said.

Regional Minister of Finance Mr Kobus Meiring said R1,5m had been spent on alien plant eradication in 1990/91 and only R1,9m

last year.

"Cape Nature Conservation had to suspend nearly all alien vegetation control in the last part of 1994," Mr Meiring said.

Water Affairs Minister Professor Kader Asmal urged the provincial authorities to apply for RDP funding to help fund alien eradication programmes.

"The removal of invasive plants is an RDP matter because water is central to the RDP," he said.

The population of greater Cape Town would increase from 2,2m to 6,2m by 2020, Dr John Hanks, chief of the World Wide Fund for Nature in SA, said.

"As it grows so the demand for water will increase and the demand will outstrip the supply."

Unsavoury remnants of our past still alive

③ CT(BR)6/6/95

BRUCE CAMERON

POLITICAL EDITOR

Very few people will remember Barry Brecher, and there is not much reason to remember him. He used to be the National Party member of the now defunct Natal Provincial Council representing Vryheid.

During his years in the council he did not make many speeches of significance. One however grabbed the headlines. In those quite recent days, there was still a ban on Indians living in the Free State, East Griqualand, southern Natal and in parts of northern Natal.

Moves were afoot to scrap the law, which dated back to 1927. Opposing the move was Brecher, with remarks like "I don't like Indians too much" and "basically, I can do without them".

The remarks should have disappeared into history along with Brecher. Unfortunately, he still indirectly plays a role in government.

The Land Bank, which falls under the auspices of the department of finance, recently published its annual report for last year, and pictured in full colour is Brecher with co-members of an all white, Afrikaner male governing board.

It is a nasty reminder that the days of apartheid, where an essentially sectional nationalist government looked after its own, still reach into the present.

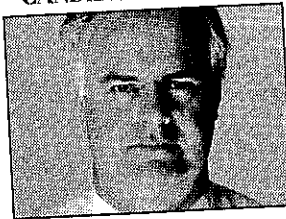
The Land Bank was infamous in days gone by for favouring Afrikaner farmers and providing them with cheap finance.

Unfortunately, there is little hint that the Land Bank is moving to help develop a black farming community. Instead, the report is devoted to the euphemisms for not assisting blacks.

The bank points out that that it has not received state funds for decades (apparently forgetting it is a state institution and that according to other papers tabled in Parliament, the government has guaranteed to the bank loans totalling R370 million).

It continues to say the bank is managed according to recognised business principles and has thus over a period of many years succeeded in strengthening its capital base to such an extent that it not only ensures investor confidence, but also serves to buffer against risks and interest rate fluctuations.

CANDIDLY CAMERON



BY BRUCE CAMERON

The all white, male governorship of the Land Bank gives no hint it will serve black farmers

The original intention of the bank was to keep farmers — white and preferably Afrikaans speaking — on the land with lower than market rate loans. It was a form of aid which seems at odds with its now professed policies.

The statements are remarkably similar to those which got the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) into trouble with members of government earlier this year when the managing director, Ben Vosloo, offended members of a parliamentary committee by lecturing them on basic economic and business principles.

While not expecting both the Land Bank and the SBDC to throw out all caution, they seem to have lost sight of the fact that the less that is done to improve the lot of deprived blacks, the more threatened their institutions become. At the very least, their management and boards should proportionally reflect the views of a wider society.

□□□

A change is under way for the SBDC, but Vosloo is not saying much about it — at least not to Business Report. A list of questions on the SBDC faxed to him two months ago is still unanswered.

When Business Report reported on the controversy surrounding the SBDC earlier this year, one of Vosloo's underlings reacted angrily, which is not unusual for the SBDC; Vosloo himself has been known to telephone journalists and angrily warn them off.

□□□

Not answering unwanted questions seems to run in the parastatal family. Another offender is Transnet. Word in parliamentary circles is that there have been clashes between Mac Maharaj's ministry of

transport and top Transnet officials.

Transnet has apparently been cocking a snoot at the ministry, hiding behind the skirts of the easier-to-get-on-with minister of public enterprises, Stella Sigcau, who is responsible for the transport utility.

Questions to Transnet about the issue and about accusations that Transnet is a contributory factor to the country's lack of competitiveness, have gone unanswered for several weeks. However, a thank you goes to armaments manufacturer Denel for a brochure on armaments which it sent in response to earlier criticism about the lack of accountability among parastatals.

Some of the items, like the Rooikat 76 armoured fighting vehicle, may be useful the next time the neighbour's dogs start barking.

□□□

More scuttlebutt from around Parliament is that the issue of privatisation — which has been passed backward and forward between government committees and ministries quicker than Australian wing David Campese passes the ball when faced by James Small — may finally be given some form.

A proposed policy document on the "re-organisation" of state assets should go before Cabinet within two weeks.

Government sources say the document, which was scheduled for release more than a month ago, has been bouncing around between an inter-ministerial committee, the economic advisory committee and the ministry of public enterprises.

The document is likely to give the first indication of how far the government will be prepared to go in selling off state assets.

The major question is whether government will be prepared to sell off a controlling interest.

Agriculture White Paper is unveiled

③ BD 7/6/95
CAPE TOWN — The government published its White Paper on agriculture yesterday, signalling a move away from an over-regulated market and to bring in people previously excluded.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk and his deputy, Thoko Msane, told a news briefing that the vision for agriculture was for a "highly efficient and economically viable sector".

There would be a wide range of farm sizes which would be the economic and social pivot of rural areas.

This meant restructuring the Department of Agriculture, reviewing the allocation of financial and human resources and reviewing all relevant laws.

"It will be wrong for the government to support prices of (any) product or commodity," says the White Paper. "It will be more appropriate to use structural adjustment programmes and targeted assistance to address the consequences."

Msane said the government also had to consider world trends such as the push by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for free trade in agriculture.

The White Paper accepts that intervention in the marketplace should only address shortcomings in service structures, market environment and market mechanisms.

Government would have to decide whether intervention should take the form of legislation or other policy interventions.

The White Paper gives the example of an export market collapsing and affecting farmers and rural communities.

All activities and financial implications of the White Paper are being re-evaluated to assess cost-effectiveness. — Reuter.

Subcommittee to consider land tax

Samantha Sharpe

320 3

THE Katz commission on taxation had established a subcommittee to investigate the possibility of a land tax in SA, an idea mooted by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, the commission said yesterday.

Land tax committee chairman Dennis Davis said the subcommittee would take as its starting point the efficacy of a land tax with regard to its potential for raising revenue for local government.

Coopers & Lybrand tax partner and subcommittee member Danie Uys said that there were several reasons cited as to why a land tax should be introduced — all of which would

be investigated.

These included the benefits of revenue for local government.

It had also been mooted as a means to encourage the productive use of land, with unused land unable to create the income to pay the tax.

Tax sources warned that with many farms already facing bankruptcy the introduction of a land tax could be the straw that broke the camel's back, unless it could be used as a credit against income.

The role of the tax in the efficient redistribution of land was also questionable, they said.

Uys said the closing date for submissions from interested parties was July 15.

Umgeni Water down R68 m

MAUREEN MARUD, Business Staff

Umgeni Water has reported a 5,1 percent drop in 1995 retained earnings of R68 million, compared with the previous year.

The Pietermaritzburg-based local authority's board yesterday presented its financial statements, and to allay shareholders' fears following financial media charges of undisciplined market making.

It is safe to invest in Umgeni Water stock, Avison Carlisle, director of finance and administration, assured an audience of about 100 of Cape Town's "very significant" number of investors in the triple A-rated local authority.

He is confident that an independent audit of Umgeni Water, announced by the Minister of Water Affairs, will produce the same positive results as the annual independent audit, completed recently, Mr Carlisle said after the presentation.

③ (125) ARG 8/6/95
He told investors the drop in retained earnings was owing partly to higher-than-budgeted electricity costs incurred during the Natal drought, when, instead of supplying water by gravitation, the local authority had to pump it from the Mooi River.

Water sales increased by 14,3 percent in 1995 to R314 million. A 48,4 percent rise in water purchases totalling \$35 million, brought net water revenue to \$279 million in the year. Operating income increased by 1,9 percent to R150 million.

Net interest and finance charges rose by 8,6 percent to R81 million. Net current assets increased to R78 million. Value added in terms of capital charges and direct labour costs was R170 million.

In terms of Umgeni Water's five-year capital programme, it will be spending in the region of R400 million a year in the next four to five years, Mr. Carlisle said.

Land tenant bill slammed

Louise Cook

3 (P)

BO 8/6/95

THE proposed Land Reform Labour Tenants Bill, released for comment by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom last week, was slammed by agricultural organisations for infringing property owners' rights.

The Bill proposed to give some 40 000 labour tenants on farms in the Eastern Transvaal and Kwazulu/Natal the right to acquire property rights with government assistance — with or without the approval of the landowner.

Transvaal Agriculture Union vice-president Willie Lewies warned that, once passed, the "draconian" Act could be extended to apply to the whole country.

Lewies said it could affect land values and farmers' bank creditworthiness. SA Agriculture Union president Boet Fourie accused Hanekom of "not being prepared to consider the interests of land owners". Natal Agriculture Union president William Mullins said it could increase labour and landowner tensions and that the minister had failed to consult with unions.

Legal firm Du Toit and Associates MD Philip du Toit said it tried to "fix the evil of forced removals with the evil of forced dispossession". But Farm Worker Research and Recourse Project director Dave Husy said "it was a mechanism to restrict evictions". A Land Affairs spokesman said if passed it would come into effect this month.

Spade work

FM 9/6/95

The White Paper on Agriculture, released this week, is an attempt to merge the policy interests of the commercial (largely white) and small-scale or subsistence (largely black) farming communities.

It draws a distinction between past policies aimed at food self-sufficiency and the current social policy needs. But the paper evades the trap of using the market and pricing mechanisms to support the indigent.

While it sets out to promote policy goals at both national and provincial levels, the paper basically remains an open-ended. But, as could be expected in the new political dispensation, the paper is heavily weighted in favour of social and developmental considerations. Commercial farmers can therefore prepare themselves for a less than helpful attitude regarding their financing pleas of the past, as the new policies will be heavily focused on the needs and demands of small-scale farmers.

While farmers would still be able to count on a helping State hand in the case of climatic and other disasters, this would exclude the "normal" drought relief assistance of the past, as farmers now have to factor this in as a normal farming risk for which they have to make provision.

The wide-ranging document is the result of a "dynamically inclusive" process of deliberations, merging the policy views contained in the previous government's White Paper, the ANC's agriculture policy document and inputs from the Land & Agriculture Policy Centre. But, as industry points out, farming efficiency has to remain the guiding principle of a market-orientated farming sector that wants to remain competitive.

Socio-political policy targets should therefore not be allowed to distort these vital driving forces if SA wants to retain a successful farming sector that continues to contribute to economic growth. ■

'Slow Joe' just won't let go of army land

(3) (25/11) WM9-14/6/95

Reluctant to release any of its vast tracts of land, the Defence Force is being threatened with land invasions by displaced communities, writes **Eddie Koch**

THE South African National Defence Force has come under fire for scuttling land reform in parts of the country where the army controls large tracts of unused territory — much of it taken forcibly from black communities during the apartheid era. Land organisations this week fired a broadside at Minister of Defence Joe Modise over his handling of land claims by three black communities — the Khosis, Maremane and Gathlose — who were forcibly removed in 1977 so that the South African Defence Force could build the world's second biggest battle school at Lohatla in the Northern Cape.

The displaced groups have claimed back parts of the battle school, which covers 135 000 hectares of arid land near Pommashburg, and have started negotiations with the defence and land ministries to resolve the dispute.

But the National Land Committee (NLC), which represents the removed communities, says a massive invasion by the Maremane community is looming — possibly as early as this weekend — because Modise and also the Ministry of Land Affairs have been slow in dealing with the demands for land restoration at Lohatla.

The Ministry of Defence denies it is blocking land reform. "The SANDF is not unsympathetic to claims upon land that has been allocated to it for use," said Modise's spokesman. "However it should be borne in mind that (it) has a responsibility to train its army as well as ... to ensure a professional and proficient defence force as called for in the Constitution."

The Lohatla dispute is the latest in a series of complaints that the SANDF, the single largest owner of state land outside of national game parks, is refusing to play its part in a government land reform programme that aims to redistribute 30 percent of all arable land to landless communities within five years.

An official statement from the SANDF says the military has the use of 600 000 hectares in various parts of the country. "Of this, 500 000 hectares are undeveloped and are used for training areas, bombing ranges and buffer zones around airstrips and ammunition depots."

Lohatla is the second biggest battle school in the world. The largest is owned by the United States Army in Nevada. The NLC and officials in the Department of Land Affairs believe that this land could be used to meet the government's land redistribution targets.

There are also new disputes looming in the Northern Transvaal where the SANDF controls large tracts of land along the Limpopo River which are being claimed by the original Venda inhabitants and also in the Mafatlal area of KwaZulu/Natal where the army is holding onto land that is no longer required for security purposes.

"Modise and the military have not been playing their role in promoting the land reform programmes," says NLC director Brendan Pearce. "We've been saying to the communities that they should wait and go through the formal land claims process. But their patience is running out because the government departments are dragging their feet on the issue."

A "joint working group" made up of



Waiting for their land: A former resident of Schmidtsdrift pondering the army's departure

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

Some of the larger SANDF properties

TERRAIN	Size ha
PW Botha Training Area (Lohatla)	135 854
Vastrap Weapons Range (Uplington)	49 994
Schmidtsdrift Training Area (Kimberley)	34 986
Madimbo Training Area	27 899
General De La Rey Training Area (Potchefstroom)	23 599
General De Wet Training Area (Bloemfontein)	16 974
Touwsriver Training Area (Cape)	14 857
Oudtshoorn Training Area	13 980



Joe Modise: 'He appears to have the attitude of an apparatchik from the apartheid era on the Lohatla issue'

The SANDF has confirmed that it will stage a training exercise called Operation Southern Cross at Lohatla in October and November but denies media reports that foreign military personnel will take part in the games.

Hanekom is also said to be disgruntled because the military has been slow to release land at Schmidtsdrift, another large battle training ground in the Northern Cape, despite an official agreement that this area will be given back to a group of BaTswana who were removed by the army in 1968.

In February this year, Hanekom promised the people from Schmidtsdrift that they would be back on their land "within months". Although his ministry has obtained formal agreement from the military for title to be restored to the BaTswana, progress has been complicated by the fact that some 4 500 Khwe and Xhosa people are still living at the army base.

The "bushman" community is made up of families of Khwe and Xhosa soldiers who joined the then SADF during South Africa's bush war in Namibia and fled south with the army fearing persecution after that country became independent in 1990.

Hanekom obtained permission at a Cabinet meeting two weeks ago to take over responsibility from Modise for resettling the Khwe and Xhosa, who form the biggest surviving "bushman" community in Africa, so that the land claim at Schmidtsdrift can be settled.

Modise's spokesman said a committee to devise ways of relocating the Khwe and Xhosa would take place at the end of the month and that a solution could be in place by July this year.

"The minister has instructed the Defence Force that there must be no discrimination with regards to making available emergency grazing. It should be available to organised agriculture and individuals in a declared drought stricken area who may request it."

officials from the defence and land ministries has been set up to settle the land claim. It also has representatives from the displaced groups at Lohatla to settle the land claim at Lohatla by negotiation rather than in the newly established Land Claims Court. The latest in a series of complaints is that delegations from both government departments failed to attend a meeting of this group that was held in Kimberley this week.

Modise's spokesman told the *Mail & Guardian* this interdepartmental group was "working full time" to resolve the Lohatla issue and that the military had not ruled out giving back parts of the battle school. He stressed, however, this would take time as "alternative land has to be identified, purchased and an infrastructure be established".

But Pearce says popular anger around Lohatla increased after the military last month allowed 15 white farmers to graze cattle inside the battle school grounds while access to the

area by community members is heavily restricted.

"In terms of the Restitution Act it is illegal to lease or allocate land that has a claim pending. And while white farmers are allowed to use the land, community members are not even allowed in to clean their ancestors' graves — a highly emotional issue that causes lots of conflict."

Although the NLC blames inertia from both the military and the Ministry of Land Affairs for the escalating conflict at Lohatla, government sources say the burgeoning controversy over the battle school is opening cracks in relations between the defence and land ministries.

The two ministers have had a series of face-to-face meetings relating to land controlled by the military. The sources say Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom complained that the military's decision to lease Lohatla land to white farmers was undermining his ministry's land reform programme and commitment

to resolve claims through "transparent negotiations".

"Modise appears to have the attitude of an apparatchik from the apartheid era on the Lohatla issue," said one non-governmental organisation source. "He is using old-style government arguments that the people from Lohatla received compensation and that alternative land should be found for them instead of breaking up the battle school."

Jabu Dada, the NLC's official in charge of land redistribution, says the three communities from Lohatla are incensed because they have just heard the SANDF will be staging massive war games at Lohatla later in the year.

"It appears that while the defence ministry has been in negotiation with us, behind our backs they have been planning to use the battle school for an operation that precludes its being given back to the people. The irony is that while war games are going on, there are likely to be real invasions of the land."

Chamber criticises ³ farm bill

By FRANÇOISE BOTHA

CT(BR)9/6/95 STAFF WRITER

The Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry had criticised the draft bill on the marketing of agricultural products on the grounds that it may reintroduce control structures similar to the old agricultural control boards.

The bill, published for comment, provides for statutory marketing authorities that would represent producers, commerce and industry, and consumers.

It also seeks to provide the agriculture minister with powers to control the purchase, sale and export of agricultural products, and, with cabinet approval, to prohibit certain agricultural imports and exports.

Colin Boyes, deputy director of the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said yesterday: "We believe the bill should not go forward if it will re-establish the old agricultural control board system. Like the old control boards, the proposed new structure will be tilted towards producers rather than consumers. Classic market forces are being ignored.

"It is just a revamp of the control board legislation, although in another guise. Control boards have led to inordinate price rises, and have been a major contributor to inflation."

He said the powers given to the minister raised a "number of questions" in relation to South Africa's membership of the Gatt.

In its latest newsletter, the chamber also states that the bill provides for price fixing.

Explaining the proposed new system yesterday, Gerhard Basson, chairman of the National Marketing Council for Agriculture, said: "Prices will be determined on the basis of consensus by a committee of buyers and sellers, but this will only apply when there are distortions in the marketplace — for instance, when there are only a few buyers and many producers."

He said the bill would be redrafted after submissions had been considered, and further consultations had taken place.

The chamber's economic and business issues committee has lodged objections against certain aspects of the bill with the agriculture ministry.

30 9/16/95
Mixed reaction to Bill

Edward West ⁽³⁾

CAPE TOWN — The draft Agricultural Products Marketing Bill has resurrected the spectre of agricultural control boards, says the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The chamber said yesterday the Bill seemed to allow restrictions inherent in the old Agricultural Marketing Act.

The draft legislation empowered the minister to determine the purchase, sale and export of agricultural products and, with Cabinet approval, prohibit or control the import and export of such products, it said.

"Business has come out

strongly against government interference in these matters, which have led to the exploitation of fruit and ostrich farmers."

The Bill also made provision for statutory price fixing for agricultural products. "Price fixing is a backward step and not necessary in view of the new systems of controlling imports through the tariff structure," it said.

Provision had been made for statutory marketing boards, which would be similar to the old marketing boards.

However, Unifruco CE Louis Kriel said the Bill had scaled down statutory intervention.

Farmers' union criticises White Paper

Louise Cook

(3) PD 12/6/98

THE White Paper on agriculture, released last week, has been criticised by the SA Agriculture Union, which says it contains political statements on which the union was not consulted.

Union deputy director Hans van der Merwe said at the weekend several factors had necessitated a new agricultural policy, but "certain sections" of the document contained political rethoric that detracted from it.

The union could not support

these statements and had not been consulted about them.

Van der Merwe said the union was "concerned" that the commercial agricultural sector could be "eroded".

"This White Paper shows clearly that the commercial sector will have to maintain itself in a more market related environment in which it would receive less government assistance."

Assistance would be directed mostly to the emerging black agricultural sector to the detriment of the commercial sector,

Van der Merwe said.

But Land and Agriculture Policy Centre director David Cooper welcomed "the balance" in the document between the commercial and emerging sectors.

The paper was "essentially sound", Cooper said. The centre welcomed the provision for drought to be seen as a more normal occurrence.

Absa Bank agriculture finance manager Chris Mostert said the bank welcomed the provision for farmers' interest rates to be charged at market related rates.

Labour Tenants Bill welcomed

Louise Cook

THE National Land Committee yesterday welcomed the Land Reform Labour Tenants Bill but said it had failed to "sufficiently extend" the rights of labour tenants.

Committee land rights task group co-ordinator Jadu Dada was concerned that the Bill proposed that labour, instead of an historic link, would entitle the labour tenant to live on the land. He also criticised the Bill for not applying to the 1960s and 1980s when most evictions had taken place.

Dada called on government to deal with these cases through the Restitution Act.

But he said the Bill would protect labour tenants, women and the aged against arbitrary evictions and enforce the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

The Bill proposed to give 40 000 labour tenants on farms in the Eastern Transvaal and KwaZulu/Natal the right to acquire property rights with government assistance — with or without the approval of the land owner — and placed a moratorium on evictions.

Ingrid Salgado reports the Land and Agricultural Policy Centre said yesterday labour tenants in the Northwest were unprotected by the Bill and needed to be included in its scope.

The Bill's current form only protected tenants in particular magisterial districts in KwaZulu/Natal and the former southeastern Transvaal where they had "no security of tenure on the land they have been working for generations", the centre's land reform programme manager Theresa Plewman said.

Tenants excluded from the Bill's scheduled areas were vulnerable to farmers who could take "pre-emptive action" by changing their contractual relationships with tenants.

Plewman said Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom should expand the Bill's schedule to include the whole country before legislation was passed.

Most evictions had taken place in the Bill's listed areas, which tended to be politically conservative and where tenants were "quite active", she said.

But legislation could not exclude the possibility of evictions happening elsewhere.

The centre commended Hanekom for tabling the "far-reaching and controversial" Bill for comment. Comments were being sought urgently and would be received until July 15.

Listed areas in the bill include Ermelo, Mid-delburg, Piet Retief, Amersfoort and Stander-ton in the former southeastern Transvaal and Newcastle, Estcourt, Ladysmith and Weenen in

KwaZulu/Natal.

The land affairs department had also issued a land reform policy framework document which would culminate in a debate on a land reform white paper in September, Plewman said.

Meanwhile the department said threats of violence associated with evictions were serious and the problem had not been "exaggerated", as alleged by the SA Agriculture Union (SAAU).

The SAAU had said evictions of labour tenants were "merely half the problem".

The union had accused Hanekom of bias, slamming the Bill for not considering the interests of land owners, while the Transvaal Agricultural Union had said it would "refuse to accept" the Bill.

Land Affairs chief director Erik Buiten said although no record had been available to indicate the number of evictions, the threat and intensity of violence associated with the problem was serious.

Buiten said the Bill aimed to protect the interests of the land owner as well as the labour tenant.

Farm Workers Research Project director Dave Husy said the number of evictions on farms had started to slow down last year, but "thousands" of labour tenants had been evicted since 1990.

(304) MD 14/6/95

Talks soon
on Cape land
expropriation

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — The land affairs and defence ministers and the Northern Cape land claims commissioner are to meet soon to consider expropriating land from 12 white farmers living adjacent to the SA National Defence Force battle school at Lohatla.

Land affairs parliamentary standing committee chairman Patekile Holomisa said yesterday that his committee had proposed that land owned by the SANDF outside the battle school be given to local communities forcibly removed from it in the late 1960s, or that the communities be settled on land to be expropriated from neighbouring farmers.

Holomisa said the SANDF had warned that the 40 000ha of SANDF land claimed by the communities, excluding the battle school, was unsafe due to the possibility of mines and unexploded bombs.

The SANDF had also said that if this land was restored to the communities the battle school would not be able to operate effectively.

For these reasons, adjacent farming land might have to be expropriated, either for use by the military or for use by the communities, he said.

Holomisa recently led a land affairs delegation to the region for consultations with the local Khosi, Gatlhose and Marmemane communities who are claiming back their land from the SANDF.

Saltcor tastes good growth

BY AUDREY D'ANGELO

CAPE BUSINESS EDITOR

The privately owned company Saltcor, which produces about 7 000 tons of salt a year, exports 20 percent of this to other African countries, the sole proprietor, Donald Brown, said yesterday.

Saltcor has moved its head office from Bellville to a new R1,5 million building on the outskirts of Stellenbosch and invested heavily in new computer technology to cope with its growing business.

Brown said in an interview that it achieved record sales last year and he predicted further strong growth.

About 40 percent of Saltcor's production goes to the agricultural sector, mainly for fodder and cattle lick. Another 40 percent goes to industry and for domestic use.

It supplies all the salt used by the West Coast fishing industry, domestic salt to the Durban area and coarse salt to co-operatives countrywide. It exports to Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Zaire.

Saltcor also distributes salt for other producers, mainly on the export market.

Brown went into the salt business in 1975 when his father, who started a small salt pan in Namaqualand, got into financial difficulties.

"He was not good on the financial side," said Brown. "I felt I had nothing to lose by taking over."

Brown built the business up and now owns several Namaqualand salt pans, in addition to the original one, which is near Brandvlei.

CT(RR)15/6/95 (15/6)

(3) SAPE

Farmers get sugar boost

By SIPHO KHUMALO

SEVERAL hundreds of people from the sleepy town of Groutville near Stanger braved rain to listen to President Nelson Mandela officially opening a R12 million national public works project for small sugar cane farmers.

This initiative, which is part of the government's Siyakha Development Project, will benefit more than 45 000 small-scale farmers in the sugar belt of the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu/Natal and the Eastern Transvaal.

Mandela told the crowd that this was a labour intensive project aimed at cre-

ating jobs in the region.

"Poverty and joblessness are among the causes of violence and crime. Despite the economic potential of this province, the extent of unemployment and poverty is still disturbing.

"This will continue to be a breeding ground for crime and violence. That is why the government is paying particular attention to ways of alleviating poverty in this province," said Mandela.

King Zwelithini, who was scheduled to appear with Mandela, was not present. Instead, Prince Sifiso Zulu, the spokesman of the Zulu Royal Council, represented the king at the launch.

③ CP 18/6/95

Safex to sideline agriculture's middlemen

(3) ST (BT) 18/6/95

THE launch of the SA Futures Exchange's agricultural commodities trading division next month promises to strip out much of the profiteering carried out by middlemen in the agricultural market.

The increased transparency which the agricultural division will bring to the trading of agricultural products threatens to slash the margins of the middlemen.

It is expected that the launch of agricultural commodity futures will provide some realism in the maize market, where farmers are demanding prices 60% and more above those of last year.

The agricultural commodities futures market will fulfill an important function in setting benchmark prices for agricultural commodities in the spot, or physical, market.

At present, maize farmers are being advised by producer organisations not to sell below R550 a ton. The agricultural commodities futures exchange will help determine the realism of this price.

The first contracts to be traded will

By CIARAN RYAN

be a futures contract on chilled beef carcasses, and forward contracts on white maize, yellow maize, grain sorghum, soya beans and sunflower seed.

The difference between a forward and a futures contract is that a forward contract is not guaranteed by the exchange. Forward contracts will be traded in the same way as a futures contract, subject to a R50 a ton deposit placed with the exchange.

Futures contracts will be marked-to-market each day (adjusting profit and losses for movements in the value of the underlying commodity) and guarantee the contract holder against default by the supplier. No such guarantee is given in the case of a forward contract.

Whereas the spot market facilitates physical delivery of a commodity, the futures market is primarily used for hedging against price fluctuations and the forward market for both hedging and physical delivery. John Wixley,

general manager of the agricultural commodity futures division, says the creation of a forward market is designed to stimulate trade in the futures market.

Through futures and forward contracts, farmers will be able to lock in prices 12 months before planting crops or slaughtering animals, enabling them to hedge against drought, market over-supply and changing consumer habits. Retailers, feedlotter, abattoirs, processors and others in the agricultural market will now be able to hedge this price volatility through futures contracts.

The estimated value of spot trade in agricultural commodities is R17-billion a year, compared with R34-billion in share transactions in 1993/4. While the value of share index futures contracts traded on Safex is three times that of the underlying shares, trade in agricultural commodity futures is expected to be 1,5 times that of the spot market in the initial stages. This would give an agricultural futures market value of R26-billion a year, and 1,5-million contracts, to start.

Trading in beef futures was expect-

ed to commence in early 1996, but has been moved forward six months.

Research by Safex shows that the prices of agricultural products in South Africa, particularly beef and potatoes, are frequently more volatile than the gold price.

"We decided to start trading as early as possible to enable participants to familiarise themselves with the new market," says Stuart Rees, chief executive of Safex.

"In line with our experience on the financial side, we expect trading volumes to start small and increase gradually over the next 12 months," he says.

The launch of the agricultural commodities division follows three years of development work by Safex against a background of deregulation in the local agricultural sector and an international and regional trend towards freer markets.

"The agricultural commodities exchange will provide a legally binding real price based on supply and demand," says Mr Wixley. "It will take some time before we are able to

educate farmers to use agricultural futures to their advantage."

Maize has not been freely traded since the 1930s, says Mr Wixley. Safex will recreate this free market by facilitating trade in delivery warrants or documents of title for grains and oilseeds held in bulk silo storage.

As is typical of commodity futures markets worldwide, less than 5% of all futures contracts traded on the exchange will result in physical delivery. The rest will be closed out before delivery date. Most agricultural commodities will continue to be traded outside the exchange, between farmers and co-operatives, millers and other intermediaries.

The 63 members of the Agricultural Markets Division of Safex include Uniegraan, representing the 30 major grain co-operatives, 31 commodity brokers, 13 stockbrokers, 13 banks, three individual co-operatives, KWV and only one agricultural marketing board — the Maize Board.

A total of 84 seats were issued in January at an issue price of R50 000 a seat.

Support³ for black farmers

ET 19/6/95

GROUTVILLE: President Nelson Mandela said on Saturday the government would shift resources to support small-scale black farmers instead of wealthy white-controlled agriculture.

Mr Mandela said small-scale farmers deserved to benefit from government funds.

"Small farmers, like small enterprises in the broader economy, are vital for the creation of jobs and releasing the nation's farming potential," Mr Mandela said.

He was speaking at the launch of a R12 million job-creation project. The Siyakha (work together) programme is being run jointly by the Public Works Department and kwaZulu/Natal's multi-million rand sugar industry.

The Agriculture Department is changing strategies to ensure economic growth and the "delivery of food for all", Mr Mandela said.

Plans by the major sugar milling companies to sell off parts of their land to small-scale farmers would empower blacks, he said.

About 1 000 Groutville residents braved the bitter cold and rain to see the President. — Sapa-AFP

Aid for black farmers

GOVERNMENT will shift resources to supporting small-scale black farmers instead of wealthy white agriculture, says President Nelson Mandela.

Sapa-AFP reports that Mandela, launching a R12m job creation project at Groutville near Stanger in KwaZulu/Natal at the weekend, said: "Small farmers, like small enterprises in the broader economy, are vital for the creation of jobs and to release the nation's farming potential."

The agriculture department was revamping its strategies and support programmes to ensure economic growth and the "delivery of food for all", Mandela said.

Plans by the major sugar milling companies to sell off parts of their land to small scale farmers would empower blacks, he said.

Nicola Jenvey reports that the National Public Works Programme (NPWP) and the SA Sugar Association (Sasa) have joined forces to launch a work creation project aimed at promoting stability and prosperity

(3) pp 19/6/95
in the sugar cane communities of KwaZulu/Natal, the Eastern Cape and the Eastern Transvaal.

The Siyakha project was launched at the weekend at a function where Mandela donated R12m to Sasa from reconstruction and development programme funding.

The project — an offspring of the NPWP's community-based public works projects — funds useful and relatively small assets used by communities, such as roads, water and sanitation facilities.

Sasa would manage the delivery of assets within the sugar communities of the three provinces according to guidelines established jointly by themselves and the NPWP.

Sasa chairman Dick Ridgway said: "The project's success depends on the sugar industry's developed infrastructure in rural areas, which are home to 45 000 small-scale farmers and which support more than one million people."

The project has its roots in the work creation programme initiated by the sugar industry in 1992.

BEEHIVE BUSINESS

The bee industry is in trouble, reports **NIKKI WHITFIELD**. It's a story with a sting in the tale, and at the bottom of it all is the one villain.

Too many bees spoil the honey pot

SAW 21/6/95 (3)

To be or not to be a worker bee or a queen bee. That's the question, and it's certainly one that's got the bees confused.

Millions of them are not sure whether they're Arthur or Martha, and all this confusion is slowly but surely killing off the South African bee industry, responsible not only for honey, but also invaluable to agriculture. Farmers are heavily dependent on bees for proper pollination of crops.

It's a sticky story with many a sting in the tale, and at the bottom of it all is the one villain responsible for many of nature's maladies - man.

It all started in the early 1990s when Cape bees — officially *Apis mellifera capensis* — were brought up to the Transvaal to mingle with their northern cousins, the *Apis mellifera scutellata*.

But it soon became apparent that it had all been a huge mistake.

All female bees give off a chemical signal called pheromone. The level of pheromone is higher in the queen bee than in the worker bee, which is how she controls the hive. The queen bee is mated eight to 10 times over two or three days, and then lays four-and-a-half times her weight in eggs every day.

Worker bees then get on with the job of making honey. Interestingly, though, although they work like trojans, the little creatures produce only half a teaspoon of honey each in their lifetimes.

This neat, industrious pattern was destroyed when the *capensis* was introduced into *scutellata* hives. Cape female bees have a level of pheromone on a par with the *scutellata* queen bee. Once in the *scutellata* hive, the *capensis* all begin to think they're queen bees. In bee colonies throughout the world, bees who have not been fertilised produce drones -



Liquid gold ... Joyce Mokomane labels bottles of untainted honey on Mike Schoenfeld's farm.

PICTURE: NATASHA PINCUS

But not the Cape bee. When it lays, the *capensis* produces female workers. But because of the pheromone bouquet, they also become queens and the pattern of industry is disrupted. In short, nobody does any work.

In a bid to restore the failing industry, the Government decided that no bees from the winter rainfall areas be allowed to cross into summer rainfall territory. A line was drawn across the country over which no southern bees could cross. Beekeepers were also ordered to destroy their hives to eradicate *capensis* in *scutellata* territory. But, although some 50 000 to 60 000 colonies were gassed, the

problem did not go away. 90% of the country's bee stocks were destroyed, but what was left was enough for the whole interim-ging problem to start all over again.

This was some of the background given by accountant-turned-beekeeper Mike Schoenfeld, who had to diversify to pay the bills once the bee industry began to collapse. He now farms beef, dairy and vegetables outside Cullinan to supplement what he makes from honey.

But there is another problem facing the industry. Because of the shortage of honey, it is being imported. But often this honey has not been irradiated to destroy diseases.

"All it takes is for one foreign bee to escape before it gets to the irradiation facility and settle in a discarded honey jar. A diseased bee will infect that container, South African bees will go into it, and the disease will be spread," said Schoenfeld.

"There are no diseases affecting bees in South Africa, and diseases brought in from overseas can wipe out colonies. They spread like wildfire."

So South African beekeepers have embarked on a campaign to "Buy South African".

"It's better honey because it hasn't been subjected to irradiation, and buying local honey is supporting South African industry."

Often imported honey bore labels saying it had been irradiated, when it hadn't. The old South African belief that imported is better also applies to people buying honey, said Schoenfeld.

"But it's not true. South African bees have no diseases, therefore the bees are fed no antibiotics, and a lot of the honey comes from natural flora, not from crops which have been sprayed."

Farmers are also heavily reliant on bees, and those dependent on pollination of their crops — like sunflower growers and producers of kidney beans, citrus, macadamia nuts, kiwi fruit and lychees — stand to lose about R600-million if the bee

industry disappears.

So the message to consumers is, buy South African honey — look for the "Pure South African Natural Honey" logo on jars. And the word to beekeepers is — keep your hives "pure". If there is any doubt about a mixture of *capensis* and *scutellata*, destroy it.

An article on allergies in Trends on Monday June 19 gave a contact number incorrectly as 480-1900. The correct telephone number is 642-7510.

Hints to make life easier

Your trolley is full, you've stood in the supermarket queue for hours, paid a fortune for what looks like so little.

As you trundle back to your car, you realise you forgot to buy fabric softener.

Don't be tempted to plunge back into the crowds of shoppers, and spend even more money.

Go straight home and squeeze some lemon juice into a bucket of water to soften your laundry simply and naturally.

This household tip is just one of many in *Spot On!* by Toy Visser (Yafelberg), a collection of handy hints to solve the catastrophes that strike every household from time to time.

Visser gives handy hints to keep children out of your hair during the holidays.

She also has beauty ritual hints for women (and men who are becoming more interested these days in looking after their skin).

If you hate that awful skin that forms on top of the custard, don't just give in and skim it off. Sprinkle sugar on top when the custard cools (and use less sugar when making the custard). Mayonaisse mixed with a few drops of sesame seed oil makes a soothing after-sun lotion.

And if you burn yourself in the kitchen, immediately press the burn mark against your ear lobe and hold it there for a few minutes. Visser promises that the pain will go after a short while, and leave no blister behind.

If blunt pins (or disappearing pins) plague your dressmaking days, then make a pincushion stuffed with steel wool to keep them sharp.

If you have to leave your toddler for a night, record a few stories on tape and leave a picture of yourself in the baby's room.

One last hint: think of spending R49.95 on this natty little

TOMORROW

Remember Soul City, the TV drama series with a health message screened last year? Good news on the real impact and whether there will be a sequel.

Govt wants to give security of tenure to rural people

'Land rights for

GOVT plan likely to run into opposition from traditional leaders, especially in KwaZulu-Natal

■ BY PATRICK BULGER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Far-reaching land reform legislation to introduce private land ownership for millions of rural South Africans is due to be considered by Cabinet today.

The legislation is part of a Government drive to modernise the rural economy by phasing out the centuries-old tribal land system.

The legislation could run into opposition from traditional authorities, especially the KwaZulu-Natal, IFP-linked amakhosi.

And, like the Remuneration of Traditional Leaders Bill, which deliberately undermines provinces' constitutional powers over traditional authorities, it could provide a new area of disagreement between central government and KwaZulu-Natal.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday "interim measures" would be introduced to provide security of tenure to millions living in the former homelands and who are at the mercy of tribal chiefs.

Some of the chiefs were threatening to "privatise" communal land under the noses of their tribal subjects, Hanekom told the Portfolio Committee on Land Affairs.

Hanekom indicated that central government did not agree with the IFP's contention that land matters fell within the competence of the provincial governments, which argued that their constitutional powers over traditional authorities included powers over the land tenure system.

"We don't see traditional leaders being responsible for all tribal land. We don't believe that because traditional leaders are a provincial matter, that land is a provincial affair," he said.

The IFP recently called for a provincial commission on land affairs "to inventory all available land in the province for redistribution, restitution and allocation".

It is understood that Hanekom will present a draft Interim Protection of Formal Land Rights Act to the Cabinet committee on social and administrative affairs today.

The new legislation is aimed at reshaping tenure systems in the former homelands, where people had lived for generations on tribal land but have no legal right to that land.

This in turn produced insecurity and undermined their ability to become landowners.

The legislation outlines a process for identifying individual rights to communal land and a set of legal and administrative procedures to convert the system of tenure to private tenure.

Hanekom said Government respected the role of the amakhosi but felt that their subjects were penalised because "they are not entitled as citizens to own the land they are on".

People had to have choices, he said, and while Government was looking for the support of the amakhosi, it did not view them as being responsible for all tribal land.

56/9/12 MJB (12) (3)
Millions

Land reform legislation to be considered

(3) (14) CT 21/6/95

POLITICAL STAFF

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more than 3-million potential voters. The formula will be submitted to the provincial committee. If rejected, it will be referred to the Special Electoral Court.

● Comment: Page 10

to acknowledge that HIV/AIDS is their problem also."

Rates of infection in pregnant women by November last year were: Western

The vaccinations were being given at clinics, pharmacies, informal settlements, shopping centres and taxi ranks throughout Johannesburg.

Countries 'must pay for use of SA flora'

Michael Moon

③ BD 22/6/95

SA HAD to stop the unregulated exploitation of its plant genetic resources, the Land and Agricultural Policy Centre said yesterday.

US and European companies were gathering indigenous plant material "on a large scale" for scientific use in the horticultural and medicinal fields, without any benefit to SA, centre spokesman Saliem Fakir said.

These companies applied technology to the genetic material to produce patent medicines for which they charged SA royalties.

SA was of particular interest to international scientific companies because of its exceptionally rich biodiversity, said Fakir.

A number of pharmaceutical companies

were buying plant information and material from traditional healers for a pittance and using them to develop sophisticated drugs.

Horticultural scientists, particularly in the Netherlands, had been using SA flowering plants to improve the quality and variety of their floral industry.

Fakir called for all interested parties to participate in developing coherent government policy to protect indigenous resources, and said the matter would come up for discussion at a national forum on biodiversity to be held later this year.

"Genetic resources are a national asset and must be managed wisely. We cannot have an open access situation where our genetic resource base and traditional knowledge sys-

tems are exploited without adequate compensation," said Fakir.

Developing countries had insisted that recognition of sovereignty and property rights on genetic resources be included in the UN convention on biodiversity, but SA still had to formulate its own regulations on the issue.

Some South American countries had agreements with international pharmaceutical companies on the sale of plant materials and on intellectual property rights on medicines subsequently developed, said Fakir.

He said key interested parties, as well as suitable institutions to manage genetic resources needed to be identified. Proposals for a legal system and an intellectual property right framework had to be drawn up.

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Hanekom defends his 'Land Act'

③ (14) cum 23-29/6/95

Ann Eveleth

LAND Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom rejected reports that legislation he proposed to Cabinet this week was aimed at privatising tribal land rights, and said the draft Bill would instead provide legal security to millions of impoverished black rural South Africans living on tribal land in the former homelands.

Hanekom said the proposed Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act would protect informal rural land rights from the threat of unauthorised sales to developers and holiday-makers.

"These communities currently have no clear legal right to prevent individuals from selling off their grazing land to developers, or to holiday-makers ... The Bill is intended to provide a defensive mechanism against such transactions," said Hanekom.

Hanekom said the Bill was not intended to prevent development or other transfers from taking place, but would ensure that people with informal rights were given their proper status as stakeholders in such transactions.

"It will protect people who occupy land as if they are owners, who have invested in the land on the basis of an assumption of permanent rights, but it will not apply to land tenants

or temporary tenants," Hanekom said.

Without such legislation, the unlawful transactions now taking place would continue, with the people responsible only learning their actions were illegal years down the road after lengthy litigation, he added.

The proposed Bill is only an interim measure, intended to fill the legal vacuum left by the repeal of apartheid land legislation until proper consultation and research on an appropriate tenure reform system could be completed. This was a complicated process which could take years to complete, so temporary relief was needed to protect people from dispossession in the interim.

Hanekom said the Bill would have to be accompanied by Amendments to the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act No 112 of 1991, which favoured privatisation of land rights over other means of upgrading tenure. "It is necessary to amend the Act in order for it to comply with a policy that security of tenure will be protected under a variety of tenure forms," he said.

It is understood Hanekom presented the proposed Amendments, as well as a Proposed Communal Property Association Act, to the Cabinet committee on social and administrative affairs on Wednesday.

Give back our land, PAC urges

Sowetan 23/6/95

(3)

Vuyo Bavuma reports on a new campaign against landlessness

THE PAN AFRICANIST Congress yesterday launched a "back to the land" campaign to reclaim all land taken from blacks by the former National Party government.

PAC president Mr Clarence Mkwetu told a media briefing that the campaigns would include urban areas such as Sophiatown, Alexandra Township, Evaton and Bantule in Pretoria and "any areas the PAC might identify". The campaign, which would not be confined to PAC members, would show that land was still a major issue of the movement.

The PAC supported the demand by the District Six Civic Association to reclaim their land confiscated by the former government. Mkwetu said the campaign would not by-pass the Land Claims Court — despite the PAC having alleged the court could not effectively deal with such land claims.

"If our demands are not met, we shall devise political means to achieve

our aims," Mkwetu said.

Reacting to the new Remuneration of Traditional Leaders Bill, Mkwetu said draft legislation enabling the Government to pay the salaries of traditional leaders was "politically motivated".

He said funds for paying traditional leaders had always come from the Government and the PAC failed to "understand why it has now become

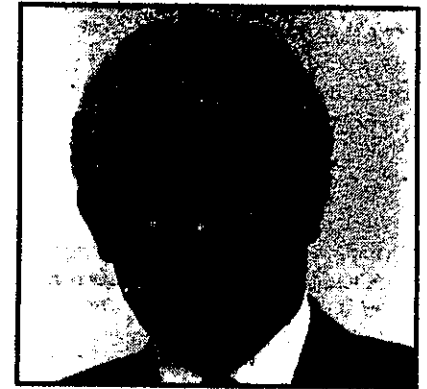
an issue. We believe it is politically motivated."

The PAC was opposed to traditional leaders being able to serve in other statutory bodies and earn two salaries.

"If they want to come to Parliament, we see no reason why they should continue as traditional leaders. They will then be making laws and going back to implement those same laws."

PAC MP Mrs Patricia de Lille said the PAC welcomed the new bill on the payment of traditional leaders.

"We need to clear up who is truly a traditional leader because many were appointed by the apartheid regime."



PAC president Clarence Mkwetu

John Major resigns

Moves to secure rural land rights

(3) JAN 23/6/95

■ BY PATRICK BULGER

Cape Town — Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom has outlined radical moves to secure the land rights of millions of rural dwellers in the former homelands.

Hanekom told the Senate during the land affairs policy review yesterday that the Government regarded "security of tenure attaching to a land unit (as) the cornerstone to freedom from economic servitude for an individual or group".

Apartheid laws had left many people without clear land rights and unable to provide any clear legal proof of their right to land.

The pending legislation could effectively undercut the

stranglehold tribal chiefs had exercised over their subjects by virtue of their control of tribal land.

Hanekom said legislation had also been submitted on a "new kind of land-holding institution, namely a communal property association".

"This association will hold land on behalf of the members of a community, which will also control it. It is a new tenure option which will be offered in cases where the Land Claims Court orders it, where it is the condition for a new land grant or where an existing community asks for it," he said.

Hanekom also outlined steps to introduce a range of other tenure options.

Focus on

land issue

③ CT (22) 23/6/95

BY THABO LESHILO

The National African Farmers Union is unhappy at the slow progress being made by the government in making land available to black farmers and has made the issue the major focus of its fourth annual conference scheduled for next weekend.

Stephen Mokoene, the union's general manager says: "Considering that black farmers are the ones who bore the brunt of apartheid land seizures, there is surprisingly slow progress in addressing their plight."

Lack of finance was another important cause of bitterness in the black farming community, he said.

The union, with 36 000 members, was formed in 1991 with help from the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce.

The conference, scheduled for July 3-4 at the Mmabatho convention centre in the Northwest province, would be open to all farmers, aspirant farmers, company representatives, non-governmental organisations and donor organisations.

Moves to secure rural dwellers' land rights

3/4

CT 23/6/95

POLITICAL STAFF

LAND AFFAIRS MINISTER Mr Derek Hanekom outlined radical moves yesterday to secure the land rights of millions of rural dwellers in the former homelands.

Mr Hanekom told the Senate during the land affairs policy review the government regarded "security of tenure as the cornerstone to freedom from economic servitude".

Apartheid laws had left many people without clear land rights and unable to provide any "clear legal proof of their right to land".

Pending legislation could undercut the stranglehold tribal chiefs had exercised over their subjects, Mr Hanekom said.

"This applies particularly to the former homelands where the system of land allocation and administration has broken down."

Mr Hanekom said legislation had also been submitted on a "new

kind of land holding institution — a communal property association.

"This association will hold land on behalf of community members, who will also control it."

Reclaim

● PAC president Mr Clarence Makwetu announced yesterday that his party had launched a Back to the Land campaign to help people reclaim rural and urban properties from which they were evicted under apartheid.

The campaign would involve demands for the return of the land or for proper compensation.

● A land tax of between two and four percent would mark the beginning of the end of commercial agriculture, Senator Errol Moorcroft (DP) said yesterday.

Speaking during debate on the Land Affairs budget vote, he said very few agricultural enterprises

had more than a four percent return on invested capital.

He said Mr Hanekom would "regret" his call that drought relief be withheld from commercial farmers and accused him of "an apparent dislike of individual ownership".

● The Eastern Cape government would take action against all civil servants who "crossed the line", Premier Raymond Mhlaba warned yesterday.

But while proof of corruption in the former homelands had come as "no big surprise", this should be seen as an historical rather than a prevalent problem, he said.

Punished

"Civil servants who are proven to be dishonest will be punished."

Police are investigating cases against civil servants in the former Ciskei and Transkei. — Political Correspondent, Sapa

Row erupts over IFP's rejection of new Bill

MD 23/6/95

Louise Cook

304 (304)

A ROW erupted in Parliament yesterday when Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom challenged the IFP to give reasons for opposing the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill released for comment recently.

Speaking in the Land Affairs Budget vote, Hanekom said he "noted with disappointment" the IFP's "unexpected and incomprehensible" rejection of the Bill.

The Bill proposed to give land ownership rights to labour tenants on farms in the Eastern Transvaal and KwaZulu/Natal — with or without the owner's agreement.

But IFP Senator Geoffrey Bengu said labour tenancy was a system characteristic of Africa which "would not fade away overnight". He said there were differences between land use and land rights that needed to be recognised.

Bengu said the IFP was "very concerned" with government's drive to replace the labour tenant system with a freehold system.

He called for land reform to be handled by the regions. Hanekom warned that once passed the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act would apply retrospectively. This meant that farmers would be prosecuted

for evicting labour tenants even before the Act was passed.

He told the House "urgent action" in areas of tenure reform was needed.

This applied particularly to cases in the former homelands, where the system of land allocation had broken down.

Hanekom said "fundamental steps" towards a more comprehensive land reform policy included a White Paper on land reform by the end of October, a final report by the Katz commission on a land tax by end-November, draft legislation to protect informal rights and a new land-holding institution to hold land on behalf of members of a community.

Meanwhile, the IFP's call for the regions to handle land reform was supported by the Freedom Front, which warned that war would break out over land reform.

Freedom Front Senator Dries Bruwer slammed Hanekom for "planning land reform from Pretoria" and called for regional committees to be established.

Sapa reports that Hanekom said government was not considering expropriating the properties of absentee land owners.

Well managed, productive farms on which workers were cared for, were a national asset.

Poll threatened by NP court action plan

Mduduzi ka Harvey

(304)

THE NP plans to take the Gauteng cabinet's local election seat allocation formula to court, threatening a further delay to the election process.

NP local government chief in the Gauteng legislature, Johann Kilian, said his party would ask Constitutional Affairs Minister Roelf Meyer and his deputy Valli Moosa to intervene. If they failed to break the deadlock, the matter would go to the Special Electoral Court.

On Wednesday the ANC-dominated pro-

vincial cabinet adopted a seat allocation formula in terms of which 10 councillors will represent every 100 000 potential voters in the province. The decision was taken by majority vote.

Kilian said the cabinet standing committee had earlier negotiated and accepted a formula providing for 10 councillors to represent 50 000 potential voters. Local government MEC Dan Mofokeng had reneged on this.

Mofokeng's spokesman Thabang Mamonwana said the new formula would instil fiscal discipline. MD 23/6/95

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Top 20 in Land Rights Parade

ARLT 24/6/95

③

Lawyer isolates priority claims to present to court

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
Staff Reporter

LAWYER Wallace Mgoqi, regional land claims commissioner for the Western and Northern Cape, had a hard task when he set about isolating 20 land rights restitution cases he believes should be given top priority.

The 10 Western Cape cases he will put before the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights

for immediate consideration, with the other region choices, range from Simon's Town to Stellenbosch.

Mr Mgoqi said the claims were mainly against state-owned land and these claims would be finalised within a month to be used as precedents to be put to the Land Claims Courts at its inception.

One claim in the Northern Cape involved eight communities, who had already lodged their claim with the previous commission, he said.

Some of the land was now in the hands of farmers, who were only too willing to negotiate, said Mr Mgoqi.

Negotiations would begin soon, he said.

"In some cases, where both parties are willing to reach a settlement, the only matter that will cause a delay will be the availability of resources from the state," said Mr Mgoqi.

The land being claimed ranged in value from R500 000 to R1 million but most of it was fairly fertile farming land.

"In most of these cases restitution will be possible and the farmer will have to be compensated by the Ministry of Land Affairs, which is

■ Twenty land-restitution claims are being given priority in the Western and Northern Cape and claimants could find themselves celebrating before Christmas.

working out workable formulas for compensation."

Full details of the claims are being kept under wraps until the current land-owners have been informed. It was hoped that judges would be appointed to the Land Claims Courts by the end of July.

"The first cases should be going to court by the end of August, beginning of September," he said.

There have been 586 land claims in the Western Cape and 108 in the Northern Cape lodged with the national office. Of the 44 claims lodged from May 1 this year with the Western and Northern land claims commission office, 30 have been processed and will be published with a notice in the Government gazette.

So far, 4 592 land claims have been made around the country. Around R13,5 million is being made available to the commission for the 1995/96 financial year. It is believed R60 million

in total is being set aside to meet the claims, said Mr Mgoqi.

Mr Mgoqi has his own land claim he will be putting before his counterpart in the Eastern Cape.

"Fortunately, it does not fall within my own jurisdiction or I would have had to recuse myself," he laughed.

Mr Mgoqi's grandfather had land in the Hertzog district, near Fort Beaufort, and the family became sharecroppers and part-owners of the land.

"There was some decree that farmers had to evict African families from farm. The land changed hands and my family and others were forced off the farm where they had lived for more than 30 years," he said.

Mr Mgoqi's claim has not yet been put forward.

"I want to give priority to others and put myself at the end of the process," he said.

Land-rights restitution was a positive step in balancing the scales and healing the wounds, said Mr Mgoqi. Having his family's land restored would help him, he said.

"It certainly will but I think there are more deserving cases and more tragic stories."



Picture: JACK LESTRADE.

□ **BUSY ROLE:** Wallace Mgoqi, pictured with volunteer Sarah Mosyppe, is being flooded with land-restitution claims he will have to assess.



Farmers 'will fight'

(3) (4)

ARCT 24/6/95

JOHANNESBURG. — Farmers and organised agriculture groups plan to mobilise against the recently released Land Reform bill which gives property rights to labour tenants, the Agricultural Employers Organisation (AEO) said.

The AEO, claiming to represent over 6 000 farmers, said it had invited

President Nelson Mandela to its planned rally on July 6 in Newcastle to protest the bill.

AEO president Werner Weber said in a statement farmers would take "every possible legal step to fight this as farmers are not prepared to give away any part of their farms". — Reuter.

Cabinet row over Lohatla

By RAY HARTLEY
Parliamentary
Correspondent

LAND affairs minister Derek Hanekom and defence minister Joe Modise are poised for a cabinet clash over the ownership of land in the defence force's Lohatla Battle School in the Northern Cape province.

In a cabinet memorandum, Mr Modise asked his colleagues to back his view that no part of the 135 000ha battle school — the third largest in the world — be given back to forcibly removed communities.

The memorandum contradicts a promise made before last year's elections by President Nelson Mandela to communities removed from the battle school that they would get their land back under a democratic government.

Mr Hanekom said the memorandum was discussed by a cabinet sub-committee on Thursday morning, but he only received a copy of it after the meeting had begun. The matter is to be discussed in full at this week's cabinet meeting.

Mr Hanekom would not confirm that he was trying to secure an urgent meeting with Mr Mandela to stop Mr Modise's plan.



AIDING THE POOR ... land affairs minister Derek Hanekom is fighting for displaced communities

Mr Modise's nine-page memorandum asked cabinet to note "the uniqueness, irreplaceability and the strategic value" of the battle school.

It went on to ask "that cabinet approve the retention of the army battle school together with a full 135 000ha of training area".

The memorandum contradicted a statement made by Mr Modise just hours after he had circulat-

ed it. In his budget speech to the Senate, Mr Modise said: "I am confident that the current dispute concerning Lohatla will be solved. The inter-departmental work group is presently considering various options".

The work group, consisting of representatives of the defence and land affairs ministries, the Northern Cape government and the removed communities,



DETERMINED ... Joe Modise, defence minister, wants the army to keep the Lohatla Battle School

had been working on a proposal that would see the military keeping battle school buildings while handing back some of the land.

The National Land Committee's Brandan Pierce, who has been negotiating on behalf of the removed communities — the Khosis, the Gathlose and the Maremane — warned that this latest intervention could spark a land invasion.

"Communities have been given the impression that they could get their land through negotiation. This move basically says that the defence force is not committed to talking about it," he said.

The Khosis, who used to occupy land in the centre of the battle school, were moved to Jenn Haven in the Northern Cape, although around 200 of them have defied removal

and continue to occupy 14 000ha in the centre of the training area.

The former Gathlose and Maremane native reserves consisted of around 62 000ha on the battle school land before the communities were moved to Bophuthatswana from 1969 onwards.

Mr Hanekom said he and Mr Modise had met to discuss alternatives, including acquiring adjoining farm land in exchange for the disputed territory, but the military had rejected this.

Mr Modise said in his Senate speech that almost 490 000ha of land was reserved for use by the military.

"It must be clearly understood that the defence force does not own any land. All the land is registered in the name of the Republic of South Africa and administered by the public works department," he said.

He said the military had undertaken "to investigate the possibility" of returning a second contested training area, Schmidtsdrift, to the Bathlaping community in the North West province.

Asked for comment on the Lohatla dispute, defence secretariat spokesman Chris Rade-meyer referred the Sunday Times to Mr Modise's Senate speech.

ST25/6/95

Angry farmers

FARMERS and organised agriculture groups plan to mobilise against the recently released Land Reform Bill, which proposes giving property rights to labour tenants, the Agricultural Employers Organisation (AEO) said.

The AEO, claiming to represent over 6 000 farmers, said it would take legal steps to fight the Bill, as it contravened constitutional guarantees of private ownership. 25/6/95

Land Bill set to draw fire

By RAY HARTLEY
Parliamentary Correspondent

FRESH controversy over land reform legislation is looming, with a measure aimed at strengthening individual land ownership in the homelands set to draw fire from Kwazulu Natal traditional leaders.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom was reported earlier this week to have described the measures as an effort to provide security of tenure for millions whose grasp on the land was at the mercy of tribal chiefs.

By the end of the week, Land Affairs officials appeared to have shifted their stance to diffuse a potentially damaging political battle with the Inkatha Freedom Party over what could be seen as another effort to undermine Kwazulu Natal chiefs.

Ministerial adviser Geoff Budlender said the planned Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill was aimed at all people "on land on an informal basis with weak rights", and not specifically at those on tribal land.

The legislation would apply to people who were regarded as the owners of the land they occupied, where the land was not commonly or tribally held, he said.

He said a second measure, the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Amendment Bill was intended to protect tribal or communal landholding systems until the people wanted to change them.

A third measure, the Communal Property Associations Bill would allow those receiving land through the restitution process, or through other land reform measures, to hold the land on a communal basis.

(3) (14) ST 25/6/95

Land rights plan will 'strangle' traditional leaders - Buthelezi

SAW 26/6/95 (3) (4)

Mtubatuba — Central control of land rights was a way to undermine the autonomy of traditional leaders, Home Affairs Minister and IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

"The land of black people which remained in black hands after dispossession by colonial conquests ... now belongs to the State as public property," he said in an address at the IFP's North Coast regional elections at Mtubatuba in KwaZulu-Natal.

"The crux of this forced plan ... is the abolition of the indigenous land tenure system and the undermining of traditional leaders as administrators of land."

Proof of this was the ANC's

plan to put traditional leaders on the central government's payroll which was a way to strangle their autonomy and divide traditional communities, he said.

The Government had the power to dole out land that rightfully belonged to blacks. This, he said, could lead to converting public land into profitable private property.

He urged the Government to abandon possible rights to more than half-a-million hectares of land that belonged to Zulus in KwaZulu-Natal, saying the land for years had been held in trusts but now faced the possibility of becoming State property.

Buthelezi also criticised the

"sweetheart" relationship between Cosatu and the Government, adding that only 20% of the country's labour force was unionised — a perfect opportunity for the IFP to create a strong alternative union.

He said the ANC had presented a "totalitarian" vision with its constitutional proposals, by cutting provincial powers, scrapping the protection of free enterprise and property rights.

The IFP would continue fighting for autonomy in KwaZulu-Natal but its success depended on people at grassroots level, including winning the November elections, he said. — Sapa.

Land loss 'usurps traditional chiefs'

(3) CT 26/6/95

MTUBATUBA: Establishing central control of land rights was a way of undermining the autonomy of traditional leaders, Home Affairs Minister and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

"The land of black people which remained in black hands after dispossession by colonial conquests ... now belongs to the state as public property," Chief Buthelezi told IFP members attending the party's North Coastal regional elections here.

The government had the power to dole out land that rightfully belonged to blacks, a step that could convert public land into profitable private property, he said.

"The crux of this forced plan ... is the abolition of the indigenous land tenure system and the undermining of traditional leaders as administrators of land."

Evidence that this was occurring was the ANC's plan to put traditional leaders on the central government's pay roll, Chief Buthelezi said.

This was a way to strangle traditional leaders' autonomy and divide traditional communities.

Chief Buthelezi urged the government to abandon possible

rights to more than a half-a-million hectares of land that belonged to Zulus in kwaZulu/Natal. This land had been held in trusts for years and might now risk becoming state property, he said.

He criticised the "sweetheart" relationship between the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the government. Only 20% of the country was unionised, which allowed the IFP a perfect opportunity to create a strong alternative union, he said.

The IFP opposed the Truth Commission and favoured a judicial process, he said.

Autonomy

The ANC's constitutional proposals presented a "totalitarian" vision as they would curb provincial powers and scrap the protection of free enterprise and property rights, Chief Buthelezi said.

The IFP would continue fighting for autonomy for kwaZulu/Natal, but its success in doing so would depend on its having grass-roots support.

"The struggle we are going to face is in many ways tougher than the struggle we faced prior to the elections," he said. — Sapa

IFP threatens row over plans for land reform

David Graybe

(3/4)

CAPE TOWN — IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi lashed out yesterday at central government's latest land reform plans, and warned of a bigger row with the ANC than that over the chiefs' pay issue.

He said it was another attempt by the ANC "to crush Inkatha, this time by breaking traditional authority. Unless something is done, black South Africans will end up dispossessed of their land like the American Indians".

Buthelezi accused Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom of planning to expropriate communal land, transforming it into government property to be distributed as private property. *BD 26/6/95*

In an address to the IFP's north coast regional elections at Mtubatuba in KwaZulu/Natal yesterday, Buthelezi said: "The crux of this forced plan... is the abolition of the indigenous land tenure system and the undermining of traditional leaders as administrators of land."

However, government yesterday denied the claims, accusing Buthelezi of fomenting another political wrangle between central government and the IFP-controlled KwaZulu/Natal legislature.

Ministerial adviser Geoff Budlender rejected Inkatha claims that the proposed legislation would "privatise" communal land. "In fact, it actually prevents privatisation of tribal land unless the people choose to," he said.

Aninka Claassens, co-drafter of the land reform legislation, said she was surprised by Buthelezi's public outburst because "he did not utter a word" against the proposals in the Cabinet committee discussions.

At the centre of the... three pieces of legislation — the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill.

Claassens, of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, said Buthelezi was trying to turn the land issue into "a battle about power over central and provincial government competencies". She challenged him to be more specific in his criticism.

Continued on Page 2

Land reform

(3/4)

BD 26/6/95

Continued from Page 1

Claassens said there was a pattern of communal land being sold off without consultation with tenants, particularly in the Eastern Cape. She said that those sales were not legal transactions.

Of concern to the IFP is Hanekom's efforts to strengthen individual land ownership in the former homelands. No one will be allowed to sell communal land without consulting residents. Buthelezi conceded Inkatha had little chance of stopping the legislation in Cabinet or Parliament, but said the KwaZulu/Natal legislature "should do something".

Interestingly, the IFP's 20-point plan to seize more federal powers in KwaZulu/Natal calls for the adoption of provincial legislation "which establishes that all matters related to land management and land use are a provincial competence".

It also proposes the establishment of a provincial committee on land affairs with advisory powers to make recommendations to the government's Commission on Land Affairs.

Claassens said the proposed legislation was an interim step to bring clarity to the tenure issue, while government undertook a two-year inquiry into tenure reform involving all stakeholders starting in August.

Aim to prevent families from being evicted

Land Bill to freeze tenure

③④ SPAR 27/6/95

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Three controversial land Bills, described by Home Affairs Minister and IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi as attacks on the traditional power of chiefs to allocate tribal land — will be put to the Cabinet tomorrow.

Buthelezi has rallied against the central Government's land reform programme, condemning it as a strategy to abolish indigenous land tenure and undermine the power of chiefs to administer land.

But the measures currently in the pipeline stop far short of this

— although press reports based on information leaked last week created quite a different impression.

The most "controversial" of the Bills — the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill — merely provides for a temporary freeze on patterns of tenure in former homeland areas where the formal records of land holding are chaotic and do not reflect the actual pattern of occupation. The Star has ascertained.

The idea is to prevent families being thrown off land, which was allocated to them and which

they have treated as their own, simply because there is no formal record of this long-standing agreement.

The Bill does not provide for any expropriation of land. Nor does it change the nature of an individual's claim to the land. It does not upgrade the form of tenure in any way.

It merely buys the authorities time — until the end of 1996 — to investigate the problem of informal land tenure more fully, to consult adequately and to come up with suitable long-term measures.

The Bill will affect millions of

people precisely because informal tenure was the rule, rather than the exception, in the homelands.

It will not extend protection to squatters who have never been generally accepted as the owners of the land they occupy and whose presence has been the subject of dispute.

The second measure to be considered by Cabinet, the Community Property Associations Bill, intends to make it easier for groups to hold land collectively. It will be useful for urban housing associations and co-operatives and for rural communities

— such as Mogopa, Doornkop and Riemvasmaak — who have had the land from which they were removed restored to them.

Until now there has been no tailor-made institution for communal property ownership. Communities or housing associations have had to work through trusts or clumsy combinations of non-profit companies and share-block schemes.

The final measure is a technical amendment to the Upgrading of Land Tenure Act passed by the National Party government about four years ago.

Govt set to sign agreement

Stan 27/6/95
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SA farmers poised to venture into Africa

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

Hundreds of South African farmers are soon to head into Africa on another Great Trek.

The trek begins next week, when the Government is scheduled to sign an agreement — known as the Africa Project — with Mozambique, Angola and Zaire for the settling of hundreds of mainly Afrikaans-speaking farmers on millions of hectares of prime agricultural land in those countries, it was disclosed in Pretoria yesterday.

Other countries, particularly Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Kenya, are also expected to welcome the new trekkers.

While one of the main reasons for seeking new prospects outside the country is to introduce farming skills to Africa, the farmers have claimed there is a

lack of interest on the part of the Government in giving "any consideration to the interests of landowners".

Land restitution and threats by the Government to settle subsistence farmers in areas farmed by large-scale operations are seen as two of the main reasons for their decision. Others are economic conditions and illegal immigration, as well as rising crime on the platteland.

The imminent signing of the agreement has been confirmed by Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) president Dries Bruwer.

Bruwer, who is also an MP, said yesterday that Mozambique had identified about 8-million ha of land for development and the resettling of farmers.

"Our agricultural experts are of the opinion that this land is highly suitable for a diversity of agricultural industries and development such as crop produc-

tion, stock farming, forestry and ecotourism," Bruwer said.

One of the project's aims was to help Africa meet its own food requirements and this would have to be tackled on a massive scale. He said South African farmers who joined the trek would have to cultivate their own foreign markets without the assistance of organised agriculture in this country.

Bruwer said the curtailment of Government assistance and the lack of protection with regard to food imports was leaving many farmers without incomes and researchers say many skilled farmers will become unemployed in the next few years.

Many farmers were, as a result, becoming disenchanted and it was because of this that they had taken a decision to find a new homeland where skills could be utilised to the advantage of the adopted country.

SA farmers set to leave

(3) CT 27/6/95

PIETERSBURG: The government is to sign agreements with other African countries within a fortnight to resettle local farmers in Mozambique, Angola and Zaire, among others. Transvaal Agricultural Union president Mr Dries Bruwer said yesterday.

The arrangements were "virtually finalised" in recent talks between his union, the Free State Agricultural Union and representatives of the Mozambican and Zairean governments.

"Mozambique has identified about eight million hectares of agricultural land ... for development and the resettling of South African farmers." — Sapa

(3) (4) ARLT 27/6/95

Controversial land measures for cabinet

Political Staff

THREE controversial land bills, described by Home Affairs Minister and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi as attacks on the traditional power of chiefs to allocate tribal land, will be put to the cabinet tomorrow.

Chief Buthelezi has railed against the central government's land reform programme, condemning it as a strategy to abolish indigenous land tenure and undermine the power of chiefs to administer land. But the measures now in the pipeline stop far short of this, although Press reports based on information leaked last week created quite a different impression.

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It merely buys the authorities time — until the end of 1996 — to investigate the problem of informal land tenure more fully, to consult adequately and to come up with suitable long-term measures.

The second measure to be considered by the cabinet, the Community Property Association's Bill, intends to make it easier for groups to hold land collectively.

The final measure is a technical amendment to the Upgrading of Land Tenure Act passed by the National Party government four years ago.

Unions fight land reform

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DURBAN: Three agricultural unions said yesterday they would unite for a mass meeting on Tuesday next week against the proposed Land Reform Bill.

"The Agricultural Employers Organisation (AEO), together with the Transvaal, Natal and Free State Agricultural Unions and related organisations have decided to join forces against the proposed Land Reform Bill," the AEO said in a statement.

The AEO claims to represent over 6 000 farmers.

The bill gives property rights to labour tenants.

"Farmers are not prepared to give away any part of their farms," AEO president Mr Werner Weber said.

The protest meeting will be held in Newcastle. — Reuter

CT 28/6/95

National water budget 'should be doubled' (3)

Political Correspondent **ARL 28/6/95**
THE national water budget should be doubled, parliament has been told.

This recommendation was made in a report by the national assembly portfolio committee on agriculture, water affairs and forestry.

The committee tabled its report after four hearings of evidence by water affairs officials and an interview with the minister, Kader Asmal.

The committee said the department had shown its commitment to transformation and to delivery. Adequate resources should be given to it to carry out its work.

"South Africa is a country where water is a scarce resource which must be jealously guarded and properly used. It involves projections and plans which run over decades."

Water Affairs needs R36m

Adrian Hadland

CAPE TOWN — Between R36bn and R56bn will be required to achieve the goals of the water and sanitation sector over the next five years, says Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal.

Addressing the National Assembly yesterday during his ministerial budget debate, Asmal said a review of existing and projected expenditure in the sector was being undertaken with the assistance of the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Initial estimates of the total financing required by government, the water boards and other institutions for the provision of basic services and the supply of adequate water and sanitation amounted to between R36bn and R56bn. "The bulk of this will be

sourced from capital markets rather than the fiscus."

The amounts involved could be reduced if Housing Minister Sankie Mthembu-Nkondo and Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk could be persuaded to consider the implications for water resource development in their programmes.

National irrigation tariffs, local government subsidies for water provision and the tariff structure for the Vaal system were being reassessed with a view to promoting efficient water use, Asmal said.

"We aim to develop a new system of conditional financial transfers to promote the provision of basic services in a sustainable way," he said. Loan funds would be

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Continued on Page 2

Water

Continued from Page 1

made available to water boards, on the best possible terms, through a water bond or similar arrangement.

Introducing his R2,1bn budget, Asmal reported significant progress in the implementation of water and forestry projects across SA. "We are rapidly moving from the phase of policy formulation to implementation," he said.

A number of major projects were either under construction, such as the Lesotho Highlands Project, or were at the final stages of design and tendering. These included the Driekoppies and Injaka dams on the Komati and Sabie rivers, the Olifants-Sand transfer pipeline to Pietersburg and the first emergency phase of the Tugela-

Mhlatuze transfer scheme for the Richards Bay area.

Work had begun on the Mount Pleasant Dam near Ladysmith, proposals were being finalised for a dam on the Mvoti River and construction would begin this financial year on bulk supplies to the KwaNdebele region of the Eastern Transvaal from the Vaal and Usutu Rivers.

An estimated 3,5-million people would receive new access to water in the next few years as a result of hundreds of projects being planned and implemented by the department.

Asmal said a Green Paper on forestry had been published yesterday aimed at dealing with the doubling of SA's timber requirements by 2025 and with plans and projects in this sector.

BO 28/6/95

Land tenure rights boosted

By Vuyo Bavuma

Sowetan
29/6/95

THE Cabinet yesterday approved three draft Bills which will strengthen the land tenure rights of millions of people, especially poor rural women.

The Bills are the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill, the Community Property Associations Bill, and the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Amendment Bill. They were passed without objection from the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Earlier the IFP had objected to the Bills because, it claimed, they would usurp the powers of traditional leaders.

Yesterday Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said the previous tenure laws and the breakdown of land administration in the former bantustans had undermined the capacity of the black people to own land.

As a result millions of poor people, particularly rural women, were in a vulnerable position. "They find the land on

which they live is simply sold from under their feet or allocated to someone else.

"Because they don't have clear legal rights to the land and cannot challenge the authority of the person or institution selling the land, they are powerless to stop the process."

Regarding the Interim Protection of Informal Land Bill Rights, the Government wanted to prevent arbitrary dispossession and stop privatisation of tribal land without the consent of the occupants and members of the tribe.

In the Eastern Cape there were reports that tribal land had been sold for personal gain by traditional chiefs to private developers without the approval of the people.

Hanekom said the Community Property Associations Bill provided a legal mechanism to people who wanted to own their land collectively.

Hanekom said the third Bill would facilitate the upgrading into individual ownership of land rights in township and urban areas.

JAL

Farm labourers to fight for land rights

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Sowetan 29/6/95

Labour-tenants want Land Reform Bill to be made law by Government

LABOUR TENANTS ON farms will take mass action if the Land Reform Bill granting them security of tenure is not made law, people claiming to represent 500 000 labour tenants around the country told a Press briefing in Johannesburg yesterday.

The briefing was called by the National Land Committee.

"There will be no peace on farms if the Government does not enforce the Bill," KwaZulu-Natal labour tenant Mr Nylon Mthethwa said.

He and his companions said in a statement labour-tenants wanted a clause in the interim constitution guaranteeing property rights to be scrapped.

They want to discuss their demand with President Nelson Mandela and Minister of Land Affairs Mr Derek Hanekom.

Eastern Transvaal labour-tenant representative Mr Daniel Ndlenghwa said they wanted government assistance to enter commercial farming.

Three agricultural unions and the Agricultural Employers' Organisation earlier this week said they opposed the Bill, particularly clauses intended to give property rights to labour-tenants on commercial farms.

They said the Bill, if enacted, would harm the economy, cause labour unrest, raise unemployment and create socio-economic problems.

The AEO said expropriation of agricultural land would contradict the letter and spirit of the constitution and go against repeated reassurances by the government that farmers' properties were safe.

"We are heading for quite a serious fight," National Land Committee director Mr Brendan Pearce told yesterday's briefing.

The National Land Committee and

labour-tenant representatives from KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Transvaal met last week to discuss the Bill.

Resolutions adopted by labour-tenants at the meeting included that strong action, possibly including expropriation, be taken against farmers evicting labour-tenants in protest against the Bill.

The National Land Committee said in a statement yesterday it supported the labour-tenants' resolutions and urged opposing traditional chiefs and other parties to review their positions.

The resolutions included that labour-tenants should be considered in the restitution of land rights, that they should not be relocated without consultation, that the laws against trespass and squatting should be abolished and that labour-tenants' cattle should not be impounded by farmers. — *Sapa*.

Farm tenants threaten action

(3) Jan 29/6/95

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Labour tenants have warned that if Parliament fails to enact the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill because of pressure from farm owners they will mount a campaign of land invasion and mass action.

This tough stance by labour tenants — whose representatives met at Paulpietersburg last weekend — is a reaction to the unite-and-fight-the-Bill position adopted by farmers under the banner of the Agricultural Employers Organisation.

The publication of the Bill on June 2 has aggravated relations between

farm owners and labour tenants in the 16 districts of KwaZulu-Natal and the South-Eastern Transvaal where it applies.

According to labour tenants and organisations working in rural areas, there has since been a flare-up of evictions in flagrant defiance of the Bill. An unusual feature of the draft legislation is that those sections which impose stringent controls on eviction procedures came into operation from the day of its publication, not from the day of its enactment.

Labour tenants who participated in a press conference held by the National Land Committee in Johannesburg yes-

terday said it was about time that the Government began to enforce the new provisions.

Among the resolutions taken at their weekend meeting was one demanding that "Minister (of Land) Derek Hanekom must inform the Ministers of Justice and Safety and Security of the enforcement processes in the Bill".

Even more controversial than the restraint on evictions is the Bill's provision for certain categories of labour tenants to buy the portion of the farm which they and their forefathers occupied in terms of long-standing land-for-labour contracts.

Controversial land Bills approved by Cabinet

BY PATRICK BULGER
and JO-ANNE COLLINGE

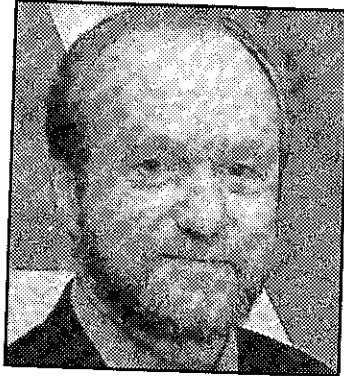
Cape Town — The Cabinet yesterday approved three land-related Bills, pending a thorough review of land tenure options over the next 18 months.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom told a media briefing the measures were adopted with the assent of IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who has alleged that the central Government could not exercise jurisdiction over provincial tribal land.

Hanekom said Buthelezi's silence in the Cabinet on the issue indicated that he now supported the measures.

Hanekom said he would send to Parliament, for its approval, the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill, the Communal Property Association Bill and a Bill to amend the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act.

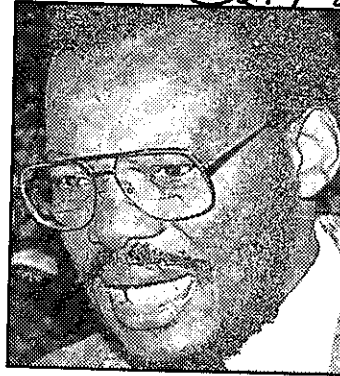
He said millions of people, "in particular the rural poor and women", were vulnerable.



Rural poor and women vulnerable . . . Derek Hanekom.

"They find that the land on which they live is simply sold from under their feet or allocated to someone else. Because they do not have clear legal rights to the land and cannot challenge the authority of the person or institution selling the land, they are powerless to stop the process.

"The Bill aims to provide ef-



Silence on the issue . . . Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

fective protection to people who hold insecure tenure rights which exist on a *de facto* rather than on a clear legally recognised basis.

"The legislation will also serve as a brake on the privatisation of tribal land by preventing the selling off of portions to strangers for personal gain without the knowledge and consent of the

occupants and members of the tribe," said Hanekom.

The National Land Committee — a network of non-governmental organisations working in rural areas — yesterday welcomed the proposed legislation as "an appropriate and long-overdue step".

In a statement read at a Johannesburg press conference, NLC spokesman Abie Dithake said the measures were necessitated by "the chaotic state of affairs of land administration, particularly the corruption and maladministration in the former homelands and rural areas".

The NLC appealed to chiefs who opposed the Interim Protection Bill to "reconsider their position in the interests of landless communities", and to offer constructive alternatives on how this critical area of land reform should be handled.

The NLC said it believed that chiefs who acted in consultation with communities and in the interests of their constituencies had nothing to fear from the Bill.

③④ Star 29/6/95

Maputo denies land deal with SA farmers

Maputo — Claims that Mozambique's government has identified 8 million hectares of land for use by South African farmers are sheer lies, government spokesman Paulo Zucula told yesterday's Mediafax newsheet.

A director in the ministry of agriculture, Zucu-

la said: "Discussions about conceding any particular piece of land have not started."

Zucula is one of the key Mozambican officials negotiating with two Afrikaner farmers' unions on their use of land.

The leader of the

Transvaal farmers' association, Dries Bruwer, claimed last weekend that 8-million ha had been earmarked. He said the South African government would this week sign an agreement with Mozambique on land use. Zucula denied this. — Sapa-AFP.

③ SPAN 29/6/95

Asmal accused of watery plot

CT 29/6/95 (3) ~~24~~

WATER AFFAIRS Minister Professor Kader Asmal had held secret meetings in kwaZulu/Natal about that province's water problems, by-passing the legitimate provincial government, the IFP claimed yesterday.

"It is devious in the extreme for the minister to bypass the government of kwaZulu/Natal on water-related matters and then to attempt to blame the IFP government for being obstructive to delivery," the IFP said.

The party was responding to the minister's claim during his budget vote speech on Tuesday that IFP "obstructionism" was the major obstacle to water delivery.

The IFP was doing everything in its power to facilitate the delivery of water. — Sapa

CHIEFS TO BE PREVENTED FROM SELLING COMMUNAL LAND

New legislation to provide security of tenure to millions

CT 29/6/95

3 17

LEGISLATION intended to protect people who were unable under apartheid legislation to own property from having the communal land they occupy sold under their feet, has been condemned by the IFP.

LAND AFFAIRS Minister Mr Derek Hanekom published three bills yesterday offering security to millions of blacks denied land ownership rights under apartheid.

Announcing the publication of the bills, Mr Hanekom said the "previous discriminatory laws and a breakdown in land administration systems in the former (homelands) undermined the capacity of black people to own and occupy land in a legally secure manner".

"Millions of people ... find the land on which they live is sold from under their feet or allocated

to someone else," he said.

The package of bills approved by the cabinet yesterday will give tribal blacks some rights over land allocated to them by chiefs and will prevent chiefs from selling communal land to commercial developers.

Mr Hanekom said that particularly along the Eastern Cape's Wild Coast, tribal land was being sold without consultation to hotel and resort developers.

"Because (the occupants) do not have clear legal rights ... they are powerless to stop the process," he said.

The bills could trigger a new row with the IFP, which condemned the principle before the text was published, calling it a bid to shatter traditional lifestyles.

Mr Hanekom said IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi had not objected to the bills at yesterday's cabinet meeting, however.

He said one of the bills would recognise and secure the communal ownership of land allocated to tribal homelands under apartheid.

Another would give temporary security until the end of 1996 to any person who has occupied and used land for at least three years, but does not have documentary proof of ownership.

Meanwhile, in Johannesburg, representatives of labour tenants said yesterday they would take mass action if the Land Reform Bill

granting them security of tenure was not made law.

The group said they wanted a clause in the interim constitution guaranteeing property rights to be scrapped and for strong action to be taken against farmers evicting tenants in protest against the bill.

Abolition

They also said labour-tenants should be considered in the restitution of land rights and the laws against trespass and squatting should be abolished.

Three agricultural unions and the Agricultural Employers' Organisation have opposed the bill, saying it would harm the economy, cause labour unrest, raise unemployment and create socio-economic problems. — Sapa-Reuter

Moz denies pact with SA farmers

③ CT 29/6/95
MAPUTO: Mozambique's government has denied that it has identified eight million hectares of land for use by South African farmers.

"Discussions about conceding any particular piece of land have not started," said Mr Paulo Zucula.

Transvaal Farmers' Association leader Mr Dries Bruwer claimed last weekend that Mozambique "has identified eight million hectares of agricultural land for ... South African farmers".

He said the SA government would sign an agreement on land use with Mozambique this week.

Mr Zucula said talks today were only expected to touch the preliminaries of an accord. — Sapa-AFP

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Meyer tells MECs to sort out demarcation

CAPE TOWN — Inconsistencies in ward allocations prescribed by the Constitution and the Local Government Transition Act could force them to be amended before the November elections.

While Constitutional Development and Provincial Affairs Minister Roelf Meyer believes provincial MECs and the demarcation boards might be able to resolve the problem, parliamentarians believe the Constitution will have to be amended.

The Act prescribes that wards must be so demarcated that black communities get half the total for all local government authorities, with the other half split among white, Indian and coloured communities.

The system has already created distortions. In Plettenberg Bay, for example, there are 29 blacks and 10 475 white, coloured and Indian voters sharing 10 wards, which means 29 people have the same say as 10 475. Carletonville has a similar problem.

At a joint constitutional development parliamentary committee meeting yesterday, department of constitutional affairs adviser SS van der Merwe said the extent of the problem was unclear.

Local Government Elections Task Group co-chairman Van Zyl Slabbert had been unable to give him accurate figures because the demarcations were still taking

place. **DD 29/6/95**

Slabbert thought the problems should be addressed individually without restructuring the whole system, Van der Merwe said.

Meyer suggested a way to resolve the problem before resorting to a constitutional amendment: that all provincial MECs "apply their minds" to ward demarcation.

Demarcation boards would also need to be approached to provide information within 14 days.

The matter would be discussed at Monday's Minmac meeting, Meyer said.

Problems should be solved by the provinces, the demarcation boards and the local government task team.

Only if problems still remained after these attempts should legislation be amended.

The amendments would apply in exceptional cases only, and time scales would have to be adjusted before polling day on November 1 by provincial proclamations, he said.

Committee members agreed in principle to Meyer's plan, but postponed discussion on the substance of the amendments.

The parliamentary committee would be kept informed of developments during the recess and, if necessary, the committee would be recalled, co-chairman Pravin Gordhan said. — Sapa.

IFP accuses 'secretive' Asmal

Farouk Chothia
DURBAN — Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal had held secret meetings in KwaZulu-Natal about the province's water problems, by-passing the legitimate provincial government, the IFP said yesterday.

Asmal's spokesman Themba Khumalo hit back

by calling on the IFP to "rid itself of the mentality that it had a monopoly" over rivers and dams in KwaZulu-Natal. The constitution stated that water affairs was a national competence, Khumalo said.

Sapa reports that the IFP accused Asmal of being "devious in the extreme" for by-passing the provincial government and then attempting to blame the IFP for being "obstructive to delivery".

Asmal said in his budget vote earlier this week that IFP "obstructionism" was the major obstacle to water delivery in KwaZulu-Natal.

The IFP said: "Asmal has on various occasions secretly visited KwaZulu-Natal and held meetings concerning the supply of water to the province without inviting IFP persons to these meetings, deliberately bypassing the legitimate government of KwaZulu-Natal." **DD 29/6/95**

Khumalo confirmed that Asmal had met non-governmental organisations and department officials in KwaZulu-Natal, but said it was not secretive.

Khumalo said the minister had met a KwaZulu-Natal government delegation lead by Premier Frank Mdlalose in March. This meeting was to discuss IFP demands for control over water affairs and forestry.

Asmal's repeated attempts to arrange follow-up meetings with the provincial government had been unsuccessful, and this was frustrating attempts to supply water to needy areas. There needed to be co-operation between the national and provincial governments to implement reconstruction and development projects, he said.

The IFP had threatened earlier to pass legislation in KwaZulu-Natal seizing powers related to water and forestry to bring government "closer to the people". It said yesterday it was doing everything in its power to facilitate the delivery of water.

Khumalo said rivers flowed from one province into the other. It was vital that water affairs remained with central government to "deregalise" the SA economy.

VITED

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1995 R000	1994 R000
120 163	95 280
10 144	8 835
130 307	104 115

Labourers threaten to seize farmland

BO 29/6/95

(3)

Business Day Reporter

GOVERNMENT had to enforce land tenure legislation or labour tenants would have no option but to begin mass action, which would include land invasion, labour tenants' spokesmen said yesterday.

They were speaking after a two-day national meeting on legislation, held under the auspices of the National Land Committee. Spokesman Victor Mkhize called on government to scrap the constitution's property clause — which entrenched existing land ownership — as it would make expropriation almost impossible.

Land committee director Brendon Pearce said expropriation — in terms of the clause — was allowed only for public purposes like building roads.

While he welcomed the Land Rights (Labour Tenants) Bill, Mkhize said farm evictions had increased since its publication on June 2 as farmers were intent on forcing tenants off farms before the Bill was passed into law.

Tenants had resolved to press for strong action against farmers pursuing this route "even if it means expropriation".

In the wake of farmers forcing 10 families off farms in the Wakkerstroom area last week, they were also calling for the abolition of the Trespass and Illegal Squatting Acts to prevent further evictions.

Spokesman said 500 000 families were tied to farms through labour tenancy de-

spite attempts to abolish this form of relationship in the '70s.

Meanwhile, Louise Cook reports Agricultural Employment Organisation spokesman Faan Smith said thousands of farmers would congregate in Newcastle on Tuesday to protest against the proposed Land Reform Bill.

He said the KwaZulu-Natal and Free State agricultural unions and related organisations would "join forces" at next week's meeting, to which President Nelson Mandela had been invited. An urgent meeting between the SA Agriculture Union (SAAU), Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and ministerial adviser Geoff Budlender had been scheduled for Monday to discuss the union's opposition to the Bill.

SAAU director Kobus Kleynhans said the union would continue its talks on the "legal and technical deficiencies" in the proposed legislation. However, farmers needed the Newcastle meeting to blow off steam, he said.

Agricultural Employment Organisation legal services head Phillip du Toit said farmers rejected the proposed legislation. They resented government proposing to "give away part of their farms".

Organisation president Werner Weber warned that every possible legal step would be taken to fight the proposed Bill. The constitution guaranteed private ownership of property and farmers would not be forced from their land, he said.



Labour tenants and the National Land Committee, at a briefing in Johannesburg, yesterday welcomed three recent Bills concerning land tenure. The national land committee's Jabu Dada, top, second from right, and Brendon Pearce, top right, flanked by tenants from KwaZulu/Natal presented their case with Daniel Ndiengetwa, bottom left, and Siphon Makhomboti from the southeastern Transvaal region.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

AIDS, HIV increases threefold

PIETERSBURG — Confirmed AIDS and Northern Province, itself considered a

Commission to focus on state deals

Mandela 'to set up land scam probe'

ByD 29/6/95

3

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — President Nelson Mandela would announce details soon of a new land commission to overturn scores of illegal land transactions conducted in the last days of apartheid rule, government sources said yesterday.

It was difficult to estimate the exact value of illegal transactions before the inquiry got under way, but it would run into hundreds of millions of rands, the government sources said.

The national inquiry's prime target will be state property, which includes tribal land sold off or leased in former homelands. The commission will sit for at least six months and is likely to be headed by Geoff Budlender, adviser to Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Legal Resources Centre director. To be proclaimed by Mandela within the next week, according to one source, it will investigate all state land deals between 1992 and 1994.

The disclosure that a commission is to be appointed coincides with Cabinet approval of legislation aimed at protecting informal, tribal and other tenants from unfair dispossession of their land for timeshare and other developments.

Hanekom told a news briefing the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill was one of three pieces of land reform legislation endorsed by the Cabinet yesterday.

A key focus of the commission's investigation will be the Eastern Cape, where more than 200 000ha of state agricultural land in the former Ciskei and Transkei was leased or sold under questionable circumstances between 1992 and 1994.

Another major focus of the inquiry will be claims of numerous cases of tribal land deals along the Transkei coastline which took place without the consent of tenants as required under customary law.

Land deals involving the Cape Provincial Administration will also come under investigation in the Eastern Cape.

Two other areas in SA already identified for investigation are former Bophuthatswana and parts of northern Transvaal. One source said Eastern Cape land and administration MEC Ezra Sigwela had played a key part in raising the issue of illegal land deals with central government.

Sigwela said yesterday it was difficult to estimate the total value of illegal transactions in his province between 1992 and 1994 until a proper audit was done, but "it definitely runs into hundreds of millions of rands". A priority for the commission would be to investigate "extensive illegal land grabbing which has taken place along the former Transkei coastline". This involved eight magisterial districts.

Sigwela claimed some of the business-

Continued on Page 2

Land

Continued from Page 1

men who had "bought" land were already operating coastal resorts and timeshare schemes. He had received many reports of cases where businessmen had "bribed" chiefs to sell or allot land without consulting the local residents. "That is totally illegal, and will be reversed by central government."

Sigwela said he would be surprised if any of the businessmen had legal title deeds. At most, he expected the deals were sanctioned by local magistrates acting on the recommendation of corrupt chiefs.

The 200 000ha of agricultural land deals to be reviewed was divided roughly between the former Ciskei and Transkei. Most of the land had been leased or sold "at below market prices to senior public servants and the upper classes". Fortunately the former transitional executive council had declared a moratorium on all state agricultural land transactions.

Sigwela said he expected many of the proposed deals would be cancelled, and a lot of the land would end up in the hands "of the poorest of the poor". However, some deals had been legitimate and he expected these to stand the test of an inquiry.

One of the worst cases involved former Ciskei strongman Oupa Gqozo, who reportedly bought a state farm for R20 000 and had since sold it for R600 000. The case was presently with the auditor-general.

Adrian Hadland reports that at yesterday's news briefing, Hanekom said the Bills approved by Cabinet, and which would now go to Parliament for consideration, would protect millions of people, particularly in rural areas, who had become vulnerable to the sale or reallocation of land on which they lived.

Hanekom said the problem had become especially acute in former homeland areas where land administration systems had collapsed but also took into account people who were denied secure land tenure due to discriminatory apartheid laws.

Because many people did not have clear legal rights to land, they could not challenge the authority of the person or institution selling it. The Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill was a "holding measure" aimed at protecting the existing rights and interests of people who had an informal right to land. The legislation would serve as a brake on privatising tribal land by preventing the sale of portions "to strangers for personal gain without the knowledge and consent of the occupants".

Court candidate: Money, not land for dispossessed

Staff Reporter

③④ ARG 3/7/75
rights are only part of a bigger picture, said Mr. Omar.

THE new Land Claims Court is unlikely to restore any urban land to its former owners, but will award them financial compensation instead, says a leading lawyer shortlisted for the court's presidency.

Johannesburg attorney Fikile Bam was motivating his candidacy in Cape Town today at a hearing before the Judicial Services Commission, which is to select the court's president and two additional judges to rule on claims by people deprived of their land under apartheid laws.

"It may be in urban areas that all the court is able to do is make awards in compensation, rather than return the claimant's land itself," Mr. Bam said in response to questions from Justice Minister Dullah Omar, who is a member of the commission.

"There will be very few instances where urban land will have been unchanged between the time it was confiscated and today."

Mr. Omar and Mr. Bam agreed that the restitution of land rights by the Land Claims Court would form only part of a broader project of land redistribution.

"The court is not designed to deal with landlessness as such — land

rights are only part of a bigger picture," said Mr. Omar.

Asked by Constitutional Court President Arthur Chaskalson, also a member of the commission, what procedure should be followed by the Land Claims Court, Mr. Bam said the court should be informal and accessible to ordinary people.

"I have a bit of unease about applying the rules of the Supreme Court to the Land Claims Court," he said, referring to legislative provisions dictating that the Land Claims Court follow Supreme Court procedures until it has devised its own rules.

"There are a lot of fairly sophisticated rules which this court can do without."

"As soon as possible, this court should formulate its own rules which are simple and easy to use."

The new court should be sensitive to the atmosphere of reconciliation reflected in the constitution and the government of national unity, Mr. Bam said.

The Judicial Services Commission, chaired by Chief Justice Michael Corbett, is to complete its interviews of short-listed candidates tomorrow.

CAPE

Brewery workers strike over incentive bonuses

Staff Reporter

~~(782) (550)~~ ARG 4/7/95

SOUTH African Breweries workers have downed tools at the Newlands plant and warned that the action could spread throughout the food industry.

port their demand for equal treatment, the Newlands workers introduced an overtime ban.

This forced SAB to haul Gauteng-brewed beer to the Western Cape — at considerable cost.

A spokesman for the 300 employees — virtually the entire Newlands workforce — said today SAB had paid incentive bonuses to workers at other plants, including Bellville and Ottery, but not at Newlands. This was an unfair labour practice, he said.

The spokesman said the workers would strike until tomorrow.

If the "reasonable demand" was not met (it would cost the company R1.2 million), it was hoped that members of the Food and Allied Workers Union at other companies would strike in sympathy.

Worker unhappiness began brewing when the incentive bonuses were paid at other plants in April. A month ago, to sup-

SAB management was unavailable for comment today.

†Dr W A ODENDAAL: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, we on this side of the House and I think every member of Parliament are very sorry that the stature and the name of the President suffered so much damage as a result of the manner in which this whole affair of relieving the person concerned of her duties was handled. I do not believe it befits the hon the Minister to reply in such an arrogant fashion. [Interjections.]

What we wish to ask the President is whether he will make the necessary arrangements to ensure that his stature, which is so high in South Africa and throughout the world, will not in future again be discredited as a result of bungling as has happened this time. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Mr Speaker, I regret that my response was interpreted as arrogant. [Interjections.]

Of course, that side of the House finds it very difficult to understand certain things at certain times. [Interjections.]

In response to the last question, I want to say that it too has nothing to do with the original question. The original question concerned whether the President had been summoned for damages by a certain person whose name had been given, and what the grounds for the claim and the amount of the claim were. That was the question asked in this House. I do not know why the hon member should abuse his position by asking questions which are not relevant. [Interjections.]

Executive Deputy President (Mr T M Mbeki):

Rev M A STOFIE: Mr Speaker, Deputy President Mbeki is still out of the country on official business. I rise to request that the two questions put to him stand over until he is available to answer them. [Interjections.]

*1. Mr A S BEYERS—Executive Deputy President (Mr T M Mbeki).† [Question standing over.]

*2. Dr B L GELDENHUYS—Executive Deputy President (Mr T M Mbeki).† [Question standing over.]

Ministers:

Questions standing over from Wednesday, 5 April 1995:

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr Speaker, regrettably I must ask again that questions 2 and 3 stand over until next week. The reason is not that we are shy to answer the questions, but that there have been recent developments in relation to this matter as a result of which the answers to the questions tabled on 5 April are out of date. There have been further developments in this case. Consequently I think the questions would be better answered next week when fresh information can be incorporated into the answer.

*2. Mr A LEON—Safety and Security. [Question standing over.]

*3. Mr A J LEON—Safety and Security. [Question standing over.]

The MINISTER OF LABOUR: Mr Speaker, the Minister is unable to be here. Consequently I request that question 9 stand over. [Interjections.]

Mr A J LEON: Mr Speaker, I wish to seek your indulgence to deal with the response given by the Deputy Minister, Mr Matthews, to the previous two questions which were tabled in my name. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr A J LEON: I accept the request that the questions be held over. It is very unusual, but in the spirit in which the request was made, I am prepared to accede to the request as you, Mr Speaker, have done.

May I suggest, however, that if a Minister or Deputy Minister has the problem of not being able to answer a question, and requests that it be held over, he or she approach the person who put the question before Parliament meets. I believe that would be . . . [Interjections.] As usual, there is a jeer of disapproval from that section of the House. [Interjections.] I am trying to assist the process, however. I am very concerned about the nature of the questions, because we are talking about an incident which took place 13 months ago. May I suggest that you give a ruling that if a Minister or Deputy Minister wishes to approach Parliament in this way, they advise the

person who put the question accordingly before we come to Parliament. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! It is customary for a Minister, as a matter of courtesy, to inform a member who has put a question on the Question Paper if he cannot reply. Today we know the Minister is ill and is unable to be here, but I hope that this practice will be followed in future. It would save a great deal of time and prevent a great deal of acrimony if Ministers were able to convey to hon members who had put questions that they would not be available in the House to deal with the questions.

*9. Mr M F CASSIM—Health. [Question standing over.]

New questions originally put on the Question Paper for reply on 19 April 1995—no sitting of National Assembly:

Documentation on pilot land reform programme refers only to Black South Africans

*1. Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister of Land Affairs: (3) *Mansard 3/5/95*

- (1) Whether documentation provided in regard to the land redistribution policy and programme specifically relating to the pilot land reform programme contains a reference only to Black South Africans; if so, (a) why and (b) what is the significance thereof;
- (2) whether the Coloured and Indian Communities are excluded from this programme; if so, why; if not, why are they not explicitly referred to in this documentation?

N313E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) Documentation relating to The Land Reform Pilot Programme states that "Black South Africans have been denied access to land markets". (a) and (b) This is a historic fact; it is part of South Africa's apartheid history which the RDP sets out to redress. In this context "Black" refers to people, previously classified as Black, Coloured and Indian, who were denied access to land under apartheid. The document further states that "Land redistribution is part of a rural development strat-

egy to address poverty and introduce equitable access to the land market".

- (2) Coloured and Indian communities are not excluded from the programme. This is an RDP Presidential Lead Project. All principles of non-racialism apply. The priority is to bring equity to the land market.

Mr A FOURIE: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to put two follow-up questions to him. In the first place I would like to know from him why it is necessary to reintroduce race classification. We all know who is being referred to, who the deprived people are. Can we not stop talking about Black and White people and rather talk about deprived people? [Interjections.]

Secondly, the hon the Minister mentioned in his reply to the second part of the question—I wrote it down—that Coloured and Indian communities were not excluded from this programme. Could he please tell us whether he has identified any Coloured or Indian communities and whether he could mention their names to us?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the hon member's first question is a strange one, because I think he could tell us a lot more about race classification than we could tell him. We do not think along those terms, we never have and we never will. We will not repeat the kinds of racial injustices and oppression which were practised by the Government which he supported all his life. The question is therefore rather irrelevant.

The same goes for the member's second question. I have not tried to identify who are Coloureds, who are Indians and who are Whites in identifying the beneficiaries of the land reform programme. It is meant to benefit poor people who were denied access to land in the past as a result of his party's silly policies.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I feel that this is a very serious matter and this is not the time for petty politicking. Surely the department's programme should focus on the effective and efficient utilisation of land. I would like to know whether any such land for pilot projects has been identified within the former self-governing or TBVC countries, and if not, whether the hon the Minister intends conducting such pilot projects in those former territories.

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, if the hon member wants serious debate, then he should also ask serious questions. He is well aware of the fact that the former bantustans, the creation of his party's policies, are overcrowded beyond the possibility of introducing land reform in those former homeland areas. The question is therefore absurd. We have to look at available land outside the homelands as the main supply of land to favour a land reform programme.

Clearly we are concerned about the efficient and beneficial utilisation of land. That is part of our land reform programme, but the main emphasis is on allowing people who were denied access in the past to gain access to land. However, we shall do so in a meaningful way which will help to alleviate their plight of poverty and misery which is the creation and result of past policies.

Dr E A SCHOEMAN: Mr Speaker, further arising from the Minister's reply, I would like him to state categorically whether he thinks, as I deduce from his answer, that all the land, high-potential land, within those territories is utilised to the maximum and cannot sustain more people. If that is his view, I would beg to differ with him.

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, I really think that the question is somewhat off the mark. The original question was whether Indians and Coloureds are included in our land reform programme and now I am being asked whether there are any little pockets of land in that 13% of our country formerly described as bantustans or homelands which could be made available as part of our land reform programme. No doubt there is some land in those underdeveloped areas which could be used beneficially. I would like to say, however, that in 87% of our country there is land which, by statute, no Blacks were allowed access to. That is the main supply of land which will be used to the benefits of landless people as part of our land reform programme.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Before allowing any further supplementary questions, I would urge hon members to try to keep their supplementary questions as close as possible to the principal question that has been asked, otherwise I shall have to rule them out of order.

†Mr I D VAN ZYL: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, if it is so that the land distribution programme is meant for all people who have not had access to land, but that only some are to benefit—the hon the Minister admitted that it is not possible to give land to all in the pilot districts—who are to benefit and what are the criteria for the allocation of land?

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, it would appear that this afternoon's session is turning out to be a debate about land reform. Of course, I am very happy to oblige.

Ms R S MOMPATI: They are worried about their big farms! [Applause.]

The MINISTER: The reality is that there will be a number of beneficiary groups in the land reform programme. It is a fact that, historically, Black people were denied access to land. It is also a fact that as a result of NP policies a number of Black people were forcibly removed from their land. [Interjections.] We have a multifaceted land reform programme which includes restitution to those people who were forcibly removed from their land. I should say that in terms of the Groups Areas Act and the Land Acts only Black people were removed from such land without being compensated.

As has been said in this House, the restitution of Land Rights Act was designed to bring justice to people who lost their land rights—title-deed owners in many cases—as a result of NP policies. [Interjections.] Since I have been asked the question, I have to mention that these people would be beneficiaries of the land reform programme.

Another beneficiary group would consist of people who were denied access to land and who are in need of land as a critical resource for their further development. This does not mean that everybody in the country will be given land, but there are many people who have an urgent need for land. I do not believe that the hon member would suggest that we should not introduce measures to assist people who are in urgent need of land to acquire such land. That is what the land reform programme is about. It is primarily targeted at poor people in order to bring them a better life, the life which was denied them as a result of past policies.

I can talk about many categories of beneficiary groups. I should say that it also includes Black business people and entrepreneurs who will gain access to land for the first time through the market and without any State assistance, something which, in the past, they were not able to do. The Land Acts determined that Black people were not allowed to own land in that 87% of our country, whether they had money to buy land or not. They were not allowed to own land.

We are creating conditions which will allow entrepreneurs to access land as resource in order to enter the mainstream agricultural economy and contribute towards the economic growth of our country in the same way as White farmers have done in the past, but without the kinds of subsidies that were made available to White farmers.

Dr P J STEENKAMP: Mr Speaker: . . .

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! We have already had a number of supplementary questions. Is the hon member's question directly linked to the original question?

Dr P J STEENKAMP: Yes, Mr Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! This is the last supplementary question that I will allow.

†Dr P J STEENKAMP: Mr Speaker, arising out of what the hon the Minister has just said, namely that provision will be made for people who lost land or who were restricted in regard to land tenure owing to NP policies, I should like him to tell us whether this excludes people who lost land as a result of the 1913 and 1936 Acts, because they were not NP Acts.

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, it is very interesting that although the forced removals took place as a result or in terms of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts, the bulk of those removals happened after 1948 when, believe it or not, the NP came to power. Therefore the majority of the 3 000 claims which the commission has in front of it today are from people who lost their land rights after 1948. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The following question is also addressed to the Minister of Land Affairs. It is his day today. [Laughter.]

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, it will be my day tomorrow, when my Vote is discussed.

Legislation to institute land tax

*2. Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister of Land Affairs:†

- (1) Whether he intends introducing legislation to institute land tax; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he has consulted with the (a) Ministers of (i) Finance and (ii) Agriculture and (b) South African (i) Agricultural Union and (ii) Land Owners Association on this matter; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N314E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) The desirability or not of introducing a rural land tax is one of the subjects which the Katz Commission of Inquiry into Certain Aspects of the Tax Structure of South Africa is going to investigate within the near future.
- (2) The method which the Commission uses is to invite the public through the media to comment before recommendations are made. By so doing all interested parties will be able to make a contribution.

Mr A FOURIE: Mr Speaker, you gave a ruling that we should only ask supplementary questions relating to the original question, but I should like to have your ruling as to whether the Ministers are not supposed to answer the questions that we put.

I want to repeat my question, because this hon Minister made the announcement that land tax was going to be introduced in South Africa. All I wanted to know from him was whether, before he made that statement, he consulted his colleagues the Ministers of Finance and of Agriculture, the SA Agricultural Union and the SA Property Owners Association.

He did not give a reply. He is now hiding behind something which happened afterwards regarding the implementation of the Katz Commission. I want to know from him whether he had consulted his colleagues when he made that statement as the Minister of Land Affairs.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Before the hon the Minister replies, I want to point out that the Chair regulates the proceedings in the House. It is not possible for the Chair to dictate

to Ministers how they should reply to questions. If members are dissatisfied, there are political processes available to them to be critical of the manner in which Ministers deal with questions. The hon the Minister may now reply.

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, the hon the member should do his homework a little bit better. Then he would have realised that I never did say that a land tax was going to be introduced in South Africa. The parliamentary question put to me some time ago was whether we would consider the introduction of a land tax. If one reads the text one will see that I said that we would consider the introduction of a land tax. That is precisely what we are doing. We are doing it through the appropriate body, namely Katz Commission of Inquiry.

Have I discussed this matter with different groups in South Africa? Yes, plenty of groups. [Interjections.] I would not discuss it with the hon member, because I would want some kind of intelligent discussion. [Laughter.] I have discussed it with many groups of farmers and with different farmers unions, not only the SA Agricultural Union. The hon member may not know this, but there are many different unions, including unions representing Black farmers in this country. I have discussed this in detail with them. Indeed, they believe it is a good idea that a land tax should be introduced in South Africa. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I must prevail on members to note that the proceedings in this House are followed very closely outside. We ought to behave with dignity and courtesy towards one another.

Transformation committee at tertiary institutions

*3. Prof S S RIPINGA asked the Minister of Education:

Whether he or his Department intends establishing an interim transformation committee to co-ordinate the transformation processes at tertiary institutions; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N315E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

Not at present. The Minister established an Advisory Committee on the Tertiary Education Crisis which has done invaluable work of an investigatory nature, with the co-operation

of the authorities of universities and technikons and stakeholder organisations. For practical reasons it was not possible to keep such a committee in existence on a permanent basis, and it has now been stood down.

The Minister is in continuous conversation with the authorities of universities and technikons on the progress of their transformation processes. His views and expectations have been made known to them in the clearest terms. He looks forward to continuing this conversation until all universities and technikons have engaged their stakeholders in sincere and thorough-going dialogue on their institutional missions, and until the transformation of their governance structures has been undertaken. The Department will facilitate whatever changes in legislation may be required.

It is the Department's view that each institution's history, circumstances and clientele differ from the others, and (within the framework of government policy and the Constitution) each institution together with all its stockholders should design solutions appropriate to its own situation.

The National Commission on Higher Education, which has embarked on its work, will be taking evidence and making recommendations on these matters.

*4. Mr M F CASSIM—Water Affairs and Forestry. [Question standing over.]

*5. Mr M F CASSIM—Water Affairs and Forestry. [Question standing over.]

Interview on programme Monitor of Afrikaans Stereo conducted only in Afrikaans

*6. Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:†

(1) In respect of how many news items on the actuality programme *Monitor* of the Radio Station Afrikaans Stereo between 07:00 and 08:00 on the morning of Thursday, 23 March 1995, interviews were conducted (a) only in Afrikaans and (b) in both Afrikaans and English;

(2) whether the persons who conducted interviews in Afrikaans have complete command of Afrikaans; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N318E

The MINISTER FOR POST, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

- (1) All interviews were conducted in Afrikaans as is the policy of Afrikaans stereo. The nature of news and the reality of the South African situation, however, invariably lead to English voices being heard on the station, as it also leads to Afrikaans being heard on English stations. Not all news makers in South Africa are Afrikaans speaking. A few examples from the said programme are Minister Sidney Mufamadi's speech in the Senate on the low morale in the police force, Minister Kader Asmal's envisaged plans to bring drinking water to all the communities throughout South Africa and Prince Phillip's speech to the community of Magopa in the Western Transvaal. In all these instances the journalists reported in Afrikaans but added excerpts of the various speeches to add a touch of realism to their reports. This in effect leads to a situation where English voices are often heard on monitor, but the policy is to keep it to a workable minimum. Ultimately, we have to accept that a 100% Afrikaans policy for news and actuality programmes in the new South Africa is virutally impossible. This would apply also to a 100% English, Zulu, Sotho, Xhosa or Tswana policy. This in effect also adds perspective to the second part of the question namely: How many interviews were conducted in both Afrikaans and English?

All interviews were conducted in Afrikaans although in many instances news clips and excerpts are added to add credibility and realism to the reports. The latter at times are in English, creating the impression that news items are addressed in both English and Afrikaans. But if statistics are imperative in this respect, the following are the items broadcast between 07:00 and 08:00 on the morning of 23 March 1995.

1. Herman Steyn's interview with Angie Kapilianus with regard to the deficit in the Gauteng Budget—(Afrikaans).
2. Antoinette Keyser reporting on the Eugene de Kock trial—(Afrikaans).

3. South Africa's high crime rate. A contribution from parliament by Jannie van Rensburg. Included an English insert of Minister Sidney Mufamadi.
4. Ilette Nel reporting on the envisaged electric taxis planned by Eskom—(Afrikaans).
5. Barbara Jooste reporting on Prince Phillip's undertakings to the green trust in South Africa. Included an English insert.
6. Jannie van Rensburg's report on the government's housing scheme for the masses. An Afrikaans report with an English insert.
7. Michell Boshoff reporting from New Zealand on the accuracy of a test in criminal investigations—(Afrikaans).
8. A South African perspective on the accuracy of DNA tests from Prof. Paul van Helden. A contribution by Wilna Mathee—(Afrikaans).
9. Anthea Warner reporting on National Water Day and the efforts of the Dough Whitehead school to bring the message across. Contained English inserts.
10. Prof Kader Asmal's envisaged plans to bring water to the people. Contained English excerpts from the Minister's speech.
11. Pele arrives in South Africa. An Afrikaans report by Herman Coetzee. Containing English excerpts from the news conference.
12. Attie Schoch reporting on Prince Phillip's visit to the Community of Magopa in Western Transvaal. Contained an English news bite.
13. Barry Claasen's interview with Minister Dullah Omar after the ANC banquet in Bloemfontein—(Afrikaans).
14. Hennis Smit reporting on the Freedom Front's request to investigate the huge accommodation bill of the regional government of the Northern Transvaal—(Afrikaans).

(b) Vaal Triangle and Kempton Park, Edenvale area.

(c) In the Vaal Triangle it was found that the risk of respiratory illnesses is higher than in areas such as Klerksdorp and that risks in unelectrified areas in particular are very high. In the Kempton park area the occurrences of respiratory illnesses are lower than the Vaal Triangle and the pollution levels are mainly related to motor vehicle emissions.

Development and/or construction of roads in rural areas: provision in Budget

208. Mr D K PADIACHEY asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether any provision has been made in the 1995-96 Budget for the development and/or construction of roads in rural areas; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in respect of each of the provinces?

N424E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

The development of the provincial road network is a provincial matter and falls under the jurisdiction of the nine provinces. Enquiries in

this regard should be addressed to the relevant Ministers in the Provinces. However the issue of funding such roads is being addressed both by the Province and the RDP process.

Provision has been made in the Department's 1995-1996 budget for the construction of National Roads in rural areas. Examples of road in rural areas under construction or due to start in this financial year are:

(a) N1: Upgrading of Windburg—Ventersburg: (Province: Free State)

(b) N1: Warmbaths to Pietersburg Toll Road: (Province: Northern Transvaal)

(c) N1: Matoks to Louis Trichardt: (Province: Northern Transvaal)

(d) N2: South Coast Toll Road between Hibberdene and Port Shepstone: (Province: KwaZulu/Natal)

(e) N2: North Coast Toll Road between Stanger and Mtunzini: (Province: KwaZulu-Natal); and

(f) N8: De Brug to Petrusburg: (Province: Free State)

These project form a part of the National Road Network.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

Hansard 4/5/95
③
For written reply:

Privately-owned land for pilot land reform programme

142. Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister for Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether he will furnish particulars in respect of privately-owned land which has been (a) identified and (b) offered for the pilot land reform programme in each of the provinces; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any transactions involved in this regard will be conducted on a willing buyer/willing seller basis; if not, why not; if so, on what conditions;
- (3) whether he will make a statement as to how the pilot land reform programme will be reconciled with the restitution of land programme in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No 22 of 1994)?

N265E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) and (b) A pilot district has been identified within each Province. A planning process involving all stakeholders within these districts will determine what basic needs exist and which land is available to meet these needs. Planning grants are being made available for this purpose. Planning is to be done in accordance with a framework for planning contained in the RDP approved Core Business Plan of the Programme.
- (2) Yes, as long as it does not exceed a reasonable market value.
- (3) No. The Commission which is appointed in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No 22 of 1994) will act within its mandate in terms of the Act.

School cadet training conducted in schools in Republic

154. Dr I M PHILLIPS asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether school cadet training is still conducted at schools in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, (a) for what purposes, (b) in terms of what (i) statutes, (ii) regulations, (iii) government notices, (iv) directives and/or (v) inter-departmental agreements, (c) (i) how many and (ii) which schools are involved, (d) how frequently does such training take place, (e) what is the content of such training and (f) what was the total cost of conducting such training in respect of the latest specified calendar year for which information is available;
- (2) whether such training applies to all pupils irrespective of (a) race, (b) gender, (c) religious persuasion and (d) conscience; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N300E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes. Cadet training is still being conducted at 581 schools on a voluntary basis.
 - (a) The training forms part of a Citizenship Training Programme under the auspices of the Department of Education.
 - (b) (i) to (v) Originally school cadet training was compulsory and conducted in accordance with the Defence Act, Act No 44 of 1957 as amended, and the Cadet Corps Regulations as published in a Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 21 November 1958 as amended.

In December 1993, the then Minister of National Education announced that cadet training would no longer be compulsory but voluntary with effect 1 January 1994.

Land claims court starts to take shape

Interviews begin for the appointment of judges, reports **Mzimasi Ngudle**

THE Land Claims Court starts to take visible shape today when the Judicial Services Commission interviews nine nominees, who have been short-listed for appointments as judges.

The interviews, to be held in Cape Town, come shortly after the establishment of the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, which will refer some land disputes to the court.

Candidates for the three posts as judges of the Land Claims Court, include: well known advocate and former Robben Island prisoner Mr Fikile Bam; former National Peace Secretariat chairman Dr Antonie Gildenhuys; South African Law Commission's professor Nic Olivier; and former Black Lawyers Association national executive director Mr Justice Moloto.

Other nominees are Mr Allan Dodson, Mr Anson Lugaju, Mr Dempheletse Moshidi, Mr Frank Sithole and Mr Vuyisa

Ramphele.

The establishment of the court, which is expected to start sitting in September, will facilitate the work of the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights whose decisions will be subject to the court's review.

In addition to its constitutional powers, the court will, among other things, determine compensation to land claimants who cannot get their land back.

In terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, the court, when deciding on land claims, will take into account the desirability of providing restitution to people who were dispossessed of their land rights because of racial discriminatory laws.

The court will also consider the need to remedy past violations of human rights, as well as to avoid major social disruptions like land invasions.

The court has Supreme Court powers of review when adjudicating on land claims.

(3) ~~2/2/95~~
Sowetan 3/7/95

Sentence for killer farmer 'unfair'

(3)
Sowetan
3/7/95

By Mokgadi Pela

JUSTICE DEPENDS ON who you are, how much money you have and how you can trick the judge," Mr Enoch Nkolonzi said yesterday in response to the four-year sentence given to Vaal farmer Alexandra Hugo for the murder of Nkolonzi's son, Vusi.

"If I had the power, I would ensure that the killer rots in jail for his deed. I have lost a son in whom I had invested. I wanted to offer him the best education possible so that he could become somebody in life. All I had done for my son has gone to waste," Nkolonzi said in an interview with *Sowetan* at Bloempark near Vanderbijlpark.

Hugo will not go to jail but will be placed under correctional supervision. He has been ordered to pay R3 500 towards funeral costs.

Nkolonzi said he was certain Hugo "knew what he was doing" when he pulled the trigger. "My son had raised

Family in anguish over lenient sentence for their son's killer



Enoch Nkolonzi

his arms begging for mercy and yet Hugo shot him. If he wanted to scare him why didn't he fire a warning shot?"

The father said he was sure Hugo's upbringing had led him to "view black life as cheap".

He asked: "How else do you explain the motive behind the killing of Vusi. How can a 10-year-old boy be a threat to an armed able-bodied adult? I can never understand this."

His wife, Mrs Jane Nkolonzi, said she was still confused by the legal jargon in court proceedings. "I still need someone to explain the implications of the sentence to me," she said.

Tonight's *Sowetan-Radio Metro* Talkback Show will be an open line. Phone Tim Modise between 7pm and 8pm on 089 110 3377 to share your views with the nation.

Consumers given a month to cut water use

Cathryn Crookes

(3) (4) (5)
BD 3/7/95
GAUTENG's main water supplier — the Vaal Dam — has 16 weeks' water left and consumers will face punitive tariffs if a 20% saving in consumption is not achieved by the end of this month, according to the Johannesburg transitional metropolitan council and the Rand Water Board.

The level of the Vaal Dam had fallen to 16% of its capacity and was dropping 1% a week. The board said the dam's level could not be allowed to drop further. "Precious reserves" from the Sterkfontein Dam were

being used to feed the Vaal.

Punitive tariffs would be introduced if water was not conserved. The overall target of 20% in water savings meant households would have to aim at cutting back consumption by 30% and industry by 10%.

Rand Water spokesman Mandy Gwele-Maepa said the board would impose the punitive tariff for exceeding consumption quotas on the Johannesburg council and other bulk purchasers, who would pass it on to household and industrial consumers.

"The punitive tariff will appear on consumers' August bills," Gwele-Maepa said.

The sliding scale tariff was devised by the council as part of its tariff restructuring programme, which came into effect today.

Council spokesman Isabel Campbell said: "It has been in the pipeline for a long time and will unfortunately coincide with the water board's punitive tariff if the saving target is not achieved."

Gwele-Maepa said educational campaigns had been running since April "to give consumers a chance to cut down on their water consumption" before it became necessary to punish consumers.

Cheap imports 'endanger agriculture'

Louise Cook

(745) 3

THE Transvaal Agriculture Union council has called for an urgent meeting of all agricultural sector leaders to warn government that the sector was near collapse and faced one of the biggest crises in history, while and that the RDP, the economy as well as SA's ability to provide food, was in jeopardy.

The council warned at the weekend that the agricultural sector faced one of the toughest fights for survival —

partially because of large scale dumping of overseas food in SA.

Producers of red meat, poultry, pork and dairy products were victims of "daily cuts in the prices of their products as a result of uncoordinated and illegal dumping".

The council said SA had become the dumping ground for highly subsidised agricultural products. Local farmers lacked similar government support and had a severe disadvantage against farmers abroad.

SA was seriously harmed by the

GATT regulations because no "reciprocal corrective measures on the input side" were made.

Other factors that had an effect on farmers were "abnormally steep" price increases from suppliers of diesel, fertilizer, wire and packaging material. These followed on the back of hikes in interest rates.

The council called for an urgent meeting with the SA Agriculture Union, provincial unions and trade organisations to take the issue up with government.

Ex-Broeder who wants to be judge grilled by commission

COLIN DOUGLAS
Business Staff

(3) (29)
ARG 4/7/95
But Mr Bizos, renowned for his acerbic courtroom style, was not prepared to let the matter lie and put Dr Gildenhuys on the spot with the following exchange.

Mr Bizos: "Were you a member of the Broederbond in 1977?"
Dr Gildenhuys: "Yes."

Mr Bizos: "Did the cancellation of the registration of hundreds of thousands of labour tenants take place in 1977?"
Dr Gildenhuys: "That sounds right, yes."
Mr Bizos: "Did you consider this an injustice?"
Dr Gildenhuys: "Yes."
Mr Bizos: "Did you speak out against it?"
Dr Gildenhuys: "I didn't speak out against it in public. On many issues I spoke out inside the Broederbond, but I don't remember if this issue was dealt with at any of our meetings. It might have been."
Mr Bizos (with an edge of sarcasm in his voice): "It might have been."
In response to other questions, Dr Gildenhuys said white farmers who had been given low-interest loans by the Land Bank to buy previously black-held land could have the portion of those loans deducted from compensation awarded to them if their farms were returned to their former owners.

FORMER National Peace Secretariat chief Antonie Gildenhuys was ambushed over his former Broederbond membership yesterday by members of the powerful Judicial Services Commission, which is meeting in Cape Town to interview prospective judges for the new Land Claims Court.

Top advocates George Bizos SC and M T K Moerane SC asked Dr Gildenhuys, who has been nominated for the court's presidency by the South African Agricultural Union, how he could hope to attract the confidence of victims of forced removals in light of the Broederbond's role in devising apartheid.

Dr Gildenhuys, who conceded in response to a question from Mr Moerane that he had been a member of the secret Afrikaner organisation from 1976 to 1992, said he had joined in order to fight unjust policies from within.

"The time I joined was the beginning of the turning point," he said. "The Broederbond has also contributed widely to the changes that made (deputy president) F W de Klerk's reforms possible."

Dr Gildenhuys, who denied ever being a member of the National Party, said his work in National Peace Accord structures had changed his outlook completely.

Broederbond man 'changed by peace'

CT 4/7/95

3

MELANIE GOSLING

FORMER National Peace Secretariat head Mr Antonie Gildenhuis told a Judicial Service Commission hearing yesterday he was a member of the Broederbond for 15 years — but his work with the secretariat had changed him completely.

The commission was interviewing nominees for appointment to the Land Claims Court.

"I can only quote President Nelson Mandela who said 'if an Afrikaner changes, he changes completely'," said Mr Gildenhuis, one of eight nominees.

Advocate Mr George Bizos asked Mr Gildenhuis how he thought someone would feel about having his land claims dealt with by a man who had been a member of the Broederbond.

"They will have to weigh up what they have seen of me in the last three years (as head of the National Peace Secretariat) ... They will have to decide 'has this man really changed?'," he replied.

Senator E S Mchunu asked Mr Gildenhuis, nominated by the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and the Law Society of the Transvaal, if being nominated by the SAAU did not make him "uncomfortable". The SAAU was perceived as being opposed to changes in land laws.

Mr Gildenhuis said it was important that the court be regarded as legitimate by white farmers as well as by blacks whose land rights were removed: "If white farmers do not accept it, one will have to use force and I don't think that is in the country's interests".

The hearings continue today.

R

Govt faces storm over Land Bill

PRETORIA: The government is to face a storm of protest from farmers at today's mass meeting over the controversial Land Reform Bill. **ET 4/7/95**

The meeting, to be held at the Newcastle showgrounds in kwaZulu/Natal, is expected to draw a large crowd.

Political groups such as the Conservative Party and the Afrikaner Volksfront yesterday both came out in support of farmers' grievances against the proposed legislation, to be introduced later this year by Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom.

It will allow tenants, mostly workers, to have land rights on the properties even though the farm is owned by the farmer.

The meeting has been organised by the Agricultural Employers' Organisation and is supported by the Natal, Transvaal and Free State agricultural unions.

The CP said the legislation was "a disguised attempt to rob farmers, the legitimate owners". — Special Correspondent

WE WILL KEEP PUBLIC SERVICE ON ITS TOES

Watchdog appointed

PROTECTOR: The newly appointed Public Protector, whose job is to root out corruption and keep tabs on bureaucracy, will have access to information at all levels of government.

A DURBAN advocate has been appointed South Africa's first Public Protector, making him one of the most powerful people in the country. The former lecturer and part-time professor of law at Natal University, 44-year-old Mr Selby Alan Sibongwe Baqwa, will keep the public service on its toes. His brief is to root out corruption, end bureaucratic unfairness and speed up unduly delayed offi-

cial decision-making.

In his position as government watchdog he can enter any building and seize anything relevant to his inquiries, order anyone to answer questions and hand over any information he requires.

Interfere

So strong are the powers this position wields, that no member of state, from the President down,

can interfere with his work.

Only the courts are off-limits for his investigations. Every other arm of government at every level must open its doors and its books at his request.

Feeling that he lacks a strong national profile, Mr Baqwa plans to start off in his position as the protector of the public with a publicity drive to inform the nation about his office, the work it does and the treatment that people are entitled to receive from civil servants.

He foresees having a team of provincial public protectors with whom he will work closely,

although the public may approach his office directly if they choose.

Pleased

His appointment was welcomed by the President of the Association of Law Societies (ALS), Mr Tony Hardy, who said he was pleased the position had finally been acknowledged, as the association had been struggling for over 10 years to "promote high-level, independent investigation into complaints concerning alleged maladministration on the part of the government and its agencies".
— Staff Reporter

CT 3/7/95

- 567. H/S Hoopstad
- 568. H/S Goudveld
- 569. Sandveld
- 570. H/S Rouxville
- 571. H/S Olien
- 572. H/S Koffiefontein
- 573. Genl Hertzog
- 574. M.T. Steyn
- 575. H/S Peltisier
- 576. H/S Trompsburg
- 577. A.J.C. Jooste
- 578. HTS Jacobsdal
- 579. H/S C. de Wet
- 580. H/S Hendrik Potgieter
- 581. H/S Edenburg

Appointed advisers/consultants to advise ministers/Department

163. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

- (1) Whether he has appointed any (a) advisers and/or (b) consultants to advise him or his Department; if so, (i) what (aa) is the name and (bb) are the qualifications of each such adviser and/or consultant, (ii) for what (aa) purpose and (bb) period was each appointed and (iii) what remuneration package and/or other fee is being paid in respect of each;
- (2) whether any fringe benefits are payable to any such advisers and/or consultants; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (3) whether any advisers and/or consultants are advising or assisting him or his Department at no cost to the State; if so, (a) what (i) is the name and (ii) are the qualifications of each such adviser and/or consultant and (b) what function is each performing within his Department;
- (4) whether any (a) organisations, (b) bodies and/or (c) persons are paying the costs of the advisers and/or consultants referred to in paragraph (3); if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are their names?

N309E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
 - (i) (aa) Mr William Hamilton Currie.

- (bb) BA Degree in English and Political Philosophy.
BA Honours degree in English.
MA Degree in Film and Television Studies.
- (ii) (aa) To perform a specific advisory service in the area of law strategy, policy and change management.
- (bb) 1 October 1994 to 30 June 1995.
- (iii) Remuneration on an all inclusive basis at a rate of R180,00 per hour which will not exceed 70 hours per month.

- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No.
 - (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (4) No.
 - (a) to (c) Fall away.

Involvement in the restitution and land reforming programmes

165. Dr E A SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether his Department is involved in the restitution and land reforming programmes of the Department of Land Affairs, if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether any measures are being taken to ensure the continued existence of the resource of agriculture; if not, why not; if so, what measures;
- (3) whether any financial aid measures are available or are being contemplated to assist new entrants to agriculture; if not, why not; if so, what measures;
- (4) whether any such financial aid measures ancillary to existing aid measures that are available to commercial farmers, will be made available; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (5) whether sufficient funds are available for this purpose; if so, what are the relevant details?

N312E

③ Havelard
4/5/95 →

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes. The Department of Agriculture is involved on both national and provincial level in the overall planning of agricultural land for restitution and reform purposes. This includes the determination of the agricultural potential of the land, optimum farm sizes, the selection of prospective farmers and the provision of support programmes such as extension and finance.
- (2) Yes. The Act on the conservation of Agricultural Resources is applicable on all agricultural land. Care, however should be taken to include these conservation measures in the planning proposals.
- (3) Yes. Schemes is available to satisfy the needs of small and beginner farmers. Particulars is available on request.
- (4) Yes. Specific financial support measures are being provided to small and beginner farmers.
- (5) No. Available funds will always be a limiting factor.

uMkhonto weSizwe members present at Shell House allowed entry to Wallmannstal Base

175. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) What are the names of the uMkhonto weSizwe members present at Shell House on 28 March 1994 who were allowed entry to the Wallmannstal Base that night;
- (2) whether these names have been submitted to the South African Police Service for purposes of questioning with regard to the shooting; if not, why not, if so, on what date;
- (3) whether the SAPS has been given access to all these persons for purposes of questioning; if not, why not; if so, on what date or dates?

N351E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) The names of 100 to 140 MK members who claimed to have been at Shell House on 28 March 1994 and who were allowed entry into 115 Battalion are unknown. The SANDF did submit a list of 367 names to the South African Police Service on request, being the names of persons who

reported at Wallmannstal assembly area between 28 March and 31 March 1994.

- (2) On 11 August 1994 the Secretary of the Joint Military Co-ordinating Council (JMCC) submitted a namelist of the 367 to the SA Police Service on request. Whether the reason for the request was for the purpose of questioning the MK members is unknown to the National Defence Force.
- (3) The SA Police Service have on various occasions visited Wallmannstal and other assembly areas/bases during their investigations. The SA Police Service have never been denied access to any camp. No official request has, however, been received from the SA Police Service for access to Wallmannstal for the explicit purpose of questioning MK members associated with the Shell House incident.

Telkom: contract awarded for Integrated Services Digital Network

203. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

- (1) Whether Telkom has awarded a contract in regard to its Integrated Services Digital Network; if so, (a) what are the details of this contract, (b) what is the value of the contract and (c) to which company or companies was the contract awarded;
- (2) whether this contract was put out to tender; if not, (a) why not and (b) how was it decided who would be awarded the contract; if so, (i) when and (ii) which companies submitted tenders;
- (3) whether the lowest tender was accepted; if not, (a) why not, (b) which company submitted the lowest tender, (c) what was the amount quoted in that tender and (d) what was the amount quoted by the successful tenderer; if so, what were the amounts quoted by the other tenderers?
N409E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

- (1) The tender for the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) has been awarded.
 - (a) A request for information (DTP0420) was published in Telkom's Tender Bulletin of 26 September 1994. Documents were made

Bans and price hikes could follow

Tough new water restrictions on way

Star 4/7/95

3

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Strict water restrictions, backed up by heavy tariff increases aimed at households with large gardens, will be introduced next month in drought-hit Gauteng and all other areas served by the Vaal River System.

The restrictions could result in a partial ban on garden hoses such as last seen during the tough four-year water cuts from June 1983 to November 1987.

Water Department spokesman Hennie Smit said the intention was to target mainly garden irri-

gation as well as leakage and wasteful water practices, not to curtail industrial production or primary water supply.

The move has been initiated by the Water Affairs Department and handed down to bulk supplier Rand Water, which in turn processes and distributes to municipalities, mines and industries within its jurisdiction.

Johannesburg's new water tariffs, which came into effect at the weekend, are R1,20 per kilolitre for 10kl or less, R1,70 for between 10kl and 20kl, R2,30 for between 20kl and 40kl and

R2,90 for more than 40kl.

The city has warned consumers that additional punitive tariffs would be implemented by the month's end unless water consumption dropped drastically.

Other city and town councils are soon expected to announce details of their sliding scale tariffs which will have to be combined with restrictions.

The latest restrictions are because of the failure of consumers to effect the savings quota.

With the Lesotho Highlands Water Project now expected to come on stream by 1998 and to alleviate the situation only until 2006, Smit warned that all hopes of any improvement in the current water situation were focused on above-average summer rainfall, even flooding, in the coming summer rainfall period starting in October.

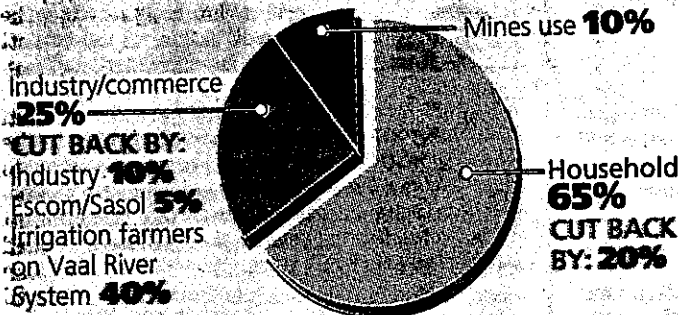
These were the only chances of breaking the four-year-long drought which has forced the level of the Vaal Dam down to 18% from 44% at the same time last year.

The current level has been artificially maintained by booster supplies released from the Sterkfontein Dam.

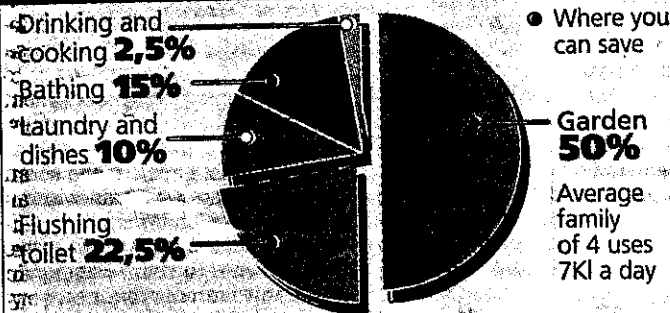
"The Vaal Dam is not supplying any water of its own at the moment. The boost from the Sterkfontein is responsible for all supplies," Smit said.

Rand Water chief executive Vincent Bath predicted the board would have to double up on its present supply of 2 800 megalitres a day by 2015, when the present Gauteng population of 9-million would have expanded considerably.

GAUTENG WATER USERS MUST SAVE



AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD WITH GARDEN



Money for urban land, says lawyer

004/7/95 (3)

CAPE TOWN — The new Land Claims Court is unlikely to restore any urban land to its former owners, but will award them financial compensation instead, a lawyer shortlisted for the court's presidency said in this city yesterday.

Johannesburg attorney Fikile Bam was motivating his candidacy at a hearing before the Judicial Services Commission, which is to select the court's president and two additional judges to rule on claims by people deprived of their land under apartheid laws.

"It may be in urban areas that all the court is able to do is make awards in compensation, rather than return the claimant's land itself," Bam said in response to questions from commission member and Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

"There will be very few instances where urban land will have been unchanged between the time it was confiscated and today," he said.

Omar and Bam agreed that restitution of land rights by the Land Claims Court would form only part of a broader land redistribution project.

"The court is not designed to deal with landlessness as such — land

rights are only part of a bigger picture," said Omar.

Asked by Constitutional Court president Arthur Chaskalson, also a commission member, what procedure should be followed by the Land Claims Court, Bam said the court should be informal and accessible to ordinary people.

"I have a bit of unease about applying the rules of the Supreme Court to the Land Claims Court," he said, referring to legislative provisions dictating that the Land Claims Court follow Supreme Court procedures until it has devised its own rules.

"There are a lot of fairly sophisticated rules which this court can do without. As soon as possible, this court should formulate its own rules which are simple and easy to use," he said.

The new court should be sensitive to the atmosphere of reconciliation reflected in the constitution and in the government of national unity, Bam said.

The Judicial Services Commission, chaired by Chief Justice Michael Corbett, is to complete its interviews of short-listed candidates today. — Sapa.

White and black grilled in judge selection

Staff Reporter

RACE and political affiliation could feature highly in the selection of judges for the Land Claims Court by the Judicial Service Commission.

This was suggested during questioning of prospective judges by leading members of the commission at hearings held in Cape Town yesterday.

Constitutional Court President Arthur Chaskalson, a commission member, took the step of asking legal academic Nic Olivier, who is white, whether he thought he could make a bigger contribution to land affairs "outside the Land Claims Court".

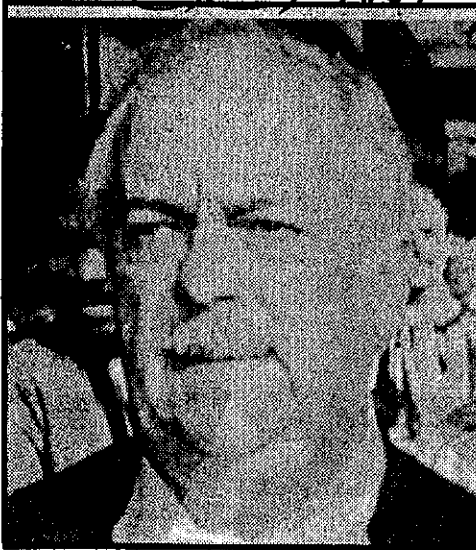
Professor Olivier — who had worked his way through a long nomination and motivation procedure to reach the final interview — then said the reason he wished to be appointed to the court was because its judges would have a key role in developing land reform policy.

Judge Chaskalson's question followed his observation that most of the claimants approaching the Land Claims Court would be black.

Another candidate, veteran KwaZulu/Natal lawyer Frank Sithole, said after the hearing he feared party politics would play a part in the commission's decision, following a searing cross-examination from ANC-linked commission member George Bizos SC, a leading advocate.

Mr Bizos: "Were there removals of 'black spots' in Natal?"

Mr Sithole: "Yes."



GEORGE BIZOS: Searing cross-examination.

Mr Bizos: "Were there removals in terms of the Group Areas Act in the urban areas of Natal?"

Mr Sithole: "Yes."

Mr Bizos: "Were there removals of people accused of being illegal squatters?"

Mr Sithole: "Yes."

Mr Bizos: "Did any of the victims of these removals come to you as an attorney to seek your help?"

Mr Sithole: "No."

Mr Bizos: "Did you become a supporter or member of any non-governmental organisation that helped these people in distress?"

Mr Sithole: "No."

In response to a later question by KwaZulu/Natal Judge President Michael Howard, Mr Sithole said the reason he had not been asked to act in the cases referred to by Mr Bizos was that he had never been a member of the ANC.

After his hearing, Mr Sithole said he would not be surprised if there was a pro-ANC bias among some members of the Judicial Service Commission, which could harm the prospects of non-party political candidates.

"At present the unfortunate position in South Africa is that you've got to take a stance, although I believe I can take a stance without supporting a particular party."

Mr Bizos's cross-examination of Mr Sithole contrasted with questions he put to another candidate, Johannesburg lawyer Dinpheletse Moshidi, who — although he belonged to no party — identified himself as "progressive" and said he had "voted for change".

Noting that Mr Moshidi was a member of both the Black Lawyers' Association and the white-founded Lawyers for Human Rights, Mr Bizos asked him how he had managed to straddle the divide between the two groups.

"The organisations are not mutually exclusive — they are both progressive," Mr Moshidi replied.

Hearing for Land Court judges

CT 5/7/95

(2) (2)

STAFF REPORTER

JUDGES appointed to the Land Claims Court should have a thorough knowledge of forced removals and the impact they had on the communities affected.

This was said yesterday by Professor Nick Olivier before the Judicial Service Commission which was interviewing nominees for appointment to the court.

Prof Olivier, who is a legal academic, author, and senior consul-

tant to the Department of Land Affairs, was the last of eight nominees to be interviewed yesterday.

An announcement on the appointments to the court is expected to be made tomorrow.

Asked by Mr Chief Justice M M Corbett what level of expertise a judge on the Land Claims Court should have, Prof Olivier said persons appointed had to be "impartial and have a thorough knowledge" of what was at hand.

"In particular this would apply

to removals and the history of removals. It would also apply to the legislation applied for removals and the different categories of removals, including the geographic consequences of removals and the socio-economic impact on communities and individuals concerned."

Apart from dealing with the legacies of apartheid and colonialism, judges should also be "development orientated". They should try to bridge the gaps and bring

about reconciliation.

Asked how he saw the function of the court, especially in regard to the fact that it would be mainly dealing with black claimants, Prof Olivier said: "In principle each land claim should be mediated by the Land Commission. Only in serious matters where there is no mediation should the matter be passed to the land Claims Court."

The Land Claims Court should help shape the direction of land policy issues, he said.

Farmers' tax boycott threat

OWN CORRESPONDENT

3 4
DURBAN: Commercial farmers would refuse to pay taxes and other levies if the government did not withdraw the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill which provided for forced sale of land to labour tenants, about 3 000 farmers resolved in Newcastle yesterday.

The meeting also resolved that organised agriculture meet with President Nelson Mandela to put forward their view that the bill was at odds with the constitution and offended common law principles, and that the enforced sale of property could affect overseas investor

confidence in South Africa.

Institutions such as banks, which had a big stake in farmland, would be asked to impress upon the government the damaging effect which the transfer of productive land could have.

Speakers said the government had not learned from the rest of Africa that when skilled management left the land, the economy of the entire country suffered.

They described the bill as "racism at its worst".

The constitution provided that land could only be expropriated for public use, not for private use, as this bill would allow.

CT 6/7/95

Last candidates for Land Claims Court

Sowetan 5/7/95

By Mzimasi Ngudle

THE chairman of the South African Law Commission, Professor Nic Olivier, yesterday said he submitted no fewer than 41 confidential memorandums to the former National Party government as its adviser on land issues.

Responding to a question from Advocate George Bizos, SC, a member of the Judicial Services Commission which interviewed the last three candidates for appointment as Land Claims Court judges, Olivier said he submitted the memorandums in response to a government request prompted by the unrest in the mid-'80s.

The memorandums dealt with the repeal of influx legislation and racist laws such as the Bantu Administration Act.

In the same period, Olivier said he

(3) Professor advised the ruling NP on ways to end repressive influx laws

submitted a report to the Human Sciences Research Council on the physical and emotional impact of influx controls.

In 1986 he was requested by the then constitutional affairs minister Mr Chris Heunis to investigate land-related racial laws.

Olivier, who is chairman of the South African Law Commission, is the author of 12 books and 200 other publications.

Despite his impressive academic record, Olivier restricted his candidacy to the posts of two additional judges, saying that his lack of practical legal experience would not qualify him as a Judge President. Olivier also claimed he was responsible for changing the De-

partment of Bantu Law to Department of Legal Pluralism at Potchefstroom, a change which Bizos said came at a time when Black people were called plurals.

Another candidate, Mr Frank Sithole, a Durban attorney whom commissioner Advocate D Gordon called the "doyen of KwaZulu-Natal African legal practitioners", said the status of women needed to be elevated as they were the most dispossessed within the African communities. Another candidate, Mr Dimpheletse Moshidi, said he believed that the Land Claims Court should provide guidelines to the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights on how to resolve land disputes.

Farmers against forced sale of land

STAN 5/7/95

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban — Farmers vowed yesterday to refuse to pay taxes and other levies if the Government did not withdraw the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill, which provides for the forced sale of land to labour tenants in two regions.

The decision was endorsed in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, yesterday at a mass meeting attended by more than 3 000 farmers.

The meeting also resolved that organised agriculture representatives meet President Nelson Mandela to put forward farmers' grievances.

These included arguments that the Bill was at odds with the Constitution, offended common law principles and that the enforced sale of property could affect overseas investor confidence in SA.

The publication of the Bill on June 2 has aggravated relations between farm owners and their tenants in the districts of KwaZulu-Natal and

the south-eastern Transvaal where it applies.

The Bill provides for certain categories of labour tenants to buy the portion of the farms which they and their forefathers occupied in terms of land-for-labour contracts.

Yesterday the presidents of the Natal, Transvaal and Free State Agricultural Unions and of the Agricultural Employers' Organisation (AEO) pledged support for the northern KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Transvaal farmers who could face expropriation proceedings by labour tenants.

The meeting also resolved to create a fund to pay for court challenges to the Bill, AEO legal adviser Phil du Toit said.

Many speakers alleged that Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom had assumed draconian powers and that his Bill cut across the functions of other State departments.

"We give notice that we will hold Mr Hanekom responsible for damages that have flowed, and will flow, from the publication of this Bill," Du Toit said.

Bill raises union's ire

Louise Cook

THE proposed Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill with powers to expropriate farmers' land was undemocratic and unreasonable, SA Agricultural Union land policy committee chairman Judge Appie Steenkamp said.

Steenkamp, who held talks with Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom on Monday, said the Bill proposed that the Land Claims Court would deal with disputes between landowners and labour tenants.

"But the Court has limited scope and duration. It was established specifically to deal with restitution cases, and there is no reason to curtail the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts."

Steenkamp said the most draconian measure in the proposed Bill was giving the labour tenant the right to buy the land he occupied.

"The owner is at the mercy of the creditworthiness of the tenant due to the fact that the State will not guarantee the payment."

Land affairs department planner, Jan Truter said a special workshop would be held on July 19 to resolve the differing views on the proposed Bill. There was a good chance that the Bill would change radically.

The National Land Committee, however, said the Bill did not go far enough.

The Bill proposes to give labour tenants in the Eastern Transvaal and KwaZulu-Natal the right to buy land on farms with or without the owner's consent.

zling," Makhaye said, speaking on behalf of the KwaZulu-Natal ANC.

Makhaye said before Sithole died he asked his son — the only survivor — why the murderers were killing him when he was already an IFP member.

Makhaye said it was obvious the hit squad consisted of IFP members.

"It must be observed that whenever the IFP holds a rally at Umlazi stadium it kills people," he claimed, asking that the IFP retract its accusation.

IFP spokesman Ed Tillett said the ANC was "stretching its information".

"I don't understand how the ANC could jump to such a conclusion," Tillett said.

"I think the murder was a deliberate

the Sithole family) for ballistic testing," Makhaye said.

KwaZulu-Natal police spokesman Lt-Col Hamilton Ngidi rejected the accusations. "Police have been working around the clock on this investigation and I'm very surprised that people could come up with such allegations," he said.

One person had already been detained for questioning in connection with the Sithole murders.

Ngidi said ANC members who had evidence of such a cover-up or police collusion with the IFP should bring the proof forward. The ANC has called for people other than the police and the IFP to protect Sithole's surviving son. — Sapa.

Land court is a trail blazer

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — There was no legal precedent or case history for the Land Claims court to draw on and in time the court would have to establish its own guidelines on equity, said Durban-based property conveyancer Frank Sithole.

Sithole was among the nominees interviewed yesterday by the Judicial Service Commission for the two posts of Land Claims court judge. The commission is to recommend five names to President Nelson Mandela for the posts of claims court president and two claims judges.

Sithole, who has been in legal practice for more than 30 years, was described by commission member Dave Gordon as "probably the doyen of

KwaZulu-Natal African legal practitioners."

Sithole said it was difficult to anticipate problems the court might encounter with the Constitution. The admission of hearsay evidence to the court was contrary to normal legal proceedings and equity appeared to be the dominant factor influencing claims court decisions.

The court would have to adjudicate "inevitable tensions" between existing landowners and land claimants. Mainly white landowners would be faced with traditional ideas on land ownership, which they would find hard to accept.

Sithole said the Property Deeds Registry Act would have to be amended because the Land Claims Court would be introducing elements — such as the ad-

mission of customary law — not found in Roman Dutch law.

For example, he said, most tribal land in KwaZulu-Natal was not formally demarcated. The owners could not register a bond because they were unable to obtain a title deed. Financial institutions were unwilling to provide finance on the land because there was no formal security on the land. This injustice had to be addressed, Sithole said.

Responding to a question from the commission if there was need for a special type of land title deed for cases of land restoration, Sithole said there appeared to be no prohibition in the envisaged powers of the Land Claims Court to restrict ownership to a nominal principal land owner.

White farmers call for negotiations

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — About 4 000 white farmers decided at a mass meeting in Newcastle yesterday to negotiate with government over the Land Reform Bill, rather than adopt a confrontational approach.

Natal Agricultural Union executive member Theo van Rooyen said the atmosphere at the meeting was "amiable", and one farmer's attempt to introduce a motion of no confidence in Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom had been unsuccessful.

However, the farmers strongly registered their opposition to the Bill which would give labour tenants ownership of land owned by white farmers.

"It should be done on a willing seller, willing buyer basis," Van Rooyen said.

The farmers agreed that a delegation should seek a meeting with provincial agriculture MECs, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk and Hanekom.

Farmers had arrived from throughout the country. SA Agricultural Union president Piet Gous was among the speakers.

Van Rooyen said farmers feared the Bill would reduce their collateral, as banks would refuse to assist them once "10 people own land on our farms".

If talks failed, farmers would challenge the Bill "in the highest court of the land". Farmers believed the Bill impinged on property rights enshrined in the Constitution, and discriminated against them for living in rural areas. People living in the backyards of their employers in urban areas would not have rights over the property, Van Rooyen said.

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n the Republic of South Africa)

Bill raises union's ire

Louise Cook

(3/4)

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The Bill proposes to give labour tenants in the Eastern Transvaal and Kwa-zulu-Natal the right to buy land on farms with or without the owner's consent.

Ex-prisoner likely to head land claims court

ARL 6/7/95 (3) (27)

COLIN DOUGLAS
Staff Reporter

FORMER Robben Island prisoner Fikile Bam is expected to be appointed president of the Land Claims Court today by acting president Thabo Mbeki after his nomination by the Judicial Service Commission.

The commission recommended Mr Bam, now a partner in the Johannesburg law firm Deneys Reitz, for the key position after interviewing eight prospective judges in Cape Town this week.

The new court has been afforded exten-

sive powers under the constitution, including the ability to order the state to expropriate farms for restitution to their original owners and pay cash compensation to Group Areas Act victims.

In his interview before the commission, which is composed of senior judges, lawyers and politicians, Mr Bam said the Land Claims Court should be sensitive to the atmosphere of reconciliation reflected in the government of national unity and the constitution.

But he emphasised that in addition to

the court there should be a major drive to redistribute land to blacks.

"If nothing is done to deal with redistribution, the court could end up being just a rubber stamp for those who already have land," he said.

Mr Mbeki must choose two or three additional Land Claims Court judges from a list of five submitted by the commission, including Alan Dodson, Antonie Gildenhuys, Justice Moloto, Dimpheletse Moshidi and Frank Sithole.

● A little window for democracy — page 21.

Land Claims Court interviews open little window for democracy

ARG 6/7/95

3 (24)

THE public interviews of prospective judges for the Land Claims Court, held in Cape Town, revealed as much about their famous interrogators on the Judicial Service Commission as they did about the issue of land restitution.

There were moments of high drama this week as the commission's legendary legal minds, such as Constitutional Court president Arthur Chaskalson and senior counsel George Bizos — a member of the defence legal team in the Rivonia trial — put pressure on candidates in the "dock" on the spartan top floor of a city office block.

Mr Bizos used his merciless cross-examination techniques on several candidates, particularly those with links to the apartheid government, or whose anti-apartheid credentials he may have regarded as shaky.

Former National Peace Secretariat chairman Antonie Gildenhuys was an early Bizos victim over his Broederbond membership from 1976 to 1992.

Legal academic Nic Olivier was subjected to repeated questioning about why he had named his Potchefstroom University department "Legal Pluralism" at a time when the government replaced the term "bantú" with "plural".

Attorney Frank Sithole — a politically-non-aligned figure in divided KwaZulu-Natal — was visibly unsettled after Mr Bizos fired a barrage of questions at him regarding his admission that he rarely acted for victims of forced removals.

Mr Bizos was moved to ask him to remain behind

SOME of South Africa's top legal minds were on show this week in public interviews by the Judicial Service Commission of candidates for the new Land Claims Court. But there is some way to go before public hearings contribute more to democracy than to theatre, writes Staff Reporter COLIN DOUGLAS.



Constitutional Court president Arthur Chaskalson

and join the public observers to witness the cross-examination of other candidates, an invitation Mr Sithole declined.

Judge Chaskalson's style was velvet to Mr Bizos's steel.

He cloaked probing questions in layers of charm and politeness.

He made his devastating question to Professor Olivier — whether he would serve South Africa better if he was not appointed to the Land Claims Court — sound more like an obituary than a death sentence.

The interviews also threw into relief the theory that the appointment of elected politicians to

the Judicial Service Commission would heighten its accountability and sensitivity to the public.

The four senators on the commission — three ANC members and one Nationalist — were among the quietest in the room.

There is only one woman in the 17-person commission.

Adopting a role as the sole representative of half the population, Johannesburg advocate K D Moroka confined herself almost exclusively to questions relating to women and their rights.

She took a candidate, Anson Lugajo, to task over

his defence of customary land law.

"When you talk about a reversion to indigenous law, there's a tension with the specific injunction in the constitution prohibiting discrimination against women," she told him.

That the interviews were open to public scrutiny was never a foregone conclusion since the commission has twice u-turned on the issue.

After its sometimes heated interviews of candidates for the Constitutional Court were widely reported, the commission decided to hold future interviews — mainly to select Supreme Court judges — behind closed doors.

But after strong public criticism, the commission reversed its decision, declaring that all its future hearings would be open.

This uneasiness about the glare of publicity was plainly evident in this week's interviews.

Chief Justice Michael Corbett, the commission's chairman, did not acknowledge the presence of the scattering of private citizens, nor were they supplied with sections of legislation handed to candidates and referred to constantly by members of the commission.

The task of assimilating two days of interviews and conveying their essence to the people was left to the Press, as far as the citizens themselves were concerned, little trouble was taken either to attract them to the hearings or to help them understand the issues canvassed.

The windows of the rooms of power have been opened — but still only by a fraction.

FARMERS PROTEST AT 'DISCRIMINATION'

Hanekom refuses to scrap land reform bill

CT 6/7/95

3

DURBAN: Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom yesterday denied claims by white farmers that his Land Reform Bill is a cheap land redistribution measure.

LAND Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom yesterday rejected a call by white farmers to scrap his Land Reform Bill.

"We will not withdraw this bill. We are prepared to have a workshop and go through the bill point by point, and we will consider changes if there are valid objections," he said.

This follows a meeting in Newcastle on Tuesday with about 3 000 farmers who demanded the immediate withdrawal of the bill, claiming it discriminated against them.

Mr Hanekom's bill provides for labour tenants to be given the

right to security of tenure and, if they wish, to buy land they currently farm, with financial help from the government.

"The farmers are creating an impression of double standards because the tenant farmers are being given rights they did not have under apartheid, and the white commercial farmers seem to be opposed to these rights," Mr Hanekom said.

"We have created measures beneficial to landless people and the farmers tend to take the position of opposition, which creates the impression that they are

unwilling to change and explore viable options."

Natal Agricultural Union spokesman Mr Theo van Rooyen said farmers saw the bill as a cheap way of redistributing land.

Wrong way

"The minister sees this as a cheap way of getting people on to the land and is going about it in the wrong way. There is more than enough existing government land for him to use," he said.

But Mr Hanekom said: "We are not getting people on to the land — they are already there. Also, it will not be cheap for the government to assist the tenants to buy their farms." — Reuter

Hanekom defends his Land Reform Bill

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Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, on Tuesday to demand the withdrawal of the Bill, claiming it discriminated against them.

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help from the Government.

"The farmers are creating an impression of double standards because the tenant farmers are being given rights they did not have under apartheid and the white commercial farmers seem opposed to these rights," Hanekom said. — Reuter.

Star 6/7/95

(3) (8)

Europe opening up to SA's farmers

806/7/95

Debra Percival (3) (4/95)

BRUSSELS — The European Commission approved a plan yesterday to grant SA's agricultural products easier access to its markets, but it fell far short of an earlier, more generous proposal by EU commissioner Joao de Deus Pinheiro.

In terms of the proposal, 66% of SA products — worth a total of \$126m — will receive the maximum benefits available for agricultural exporting: developing countries in terms of the generalised system of preferences (GSP) for the rest of this year.

That compares with just 24%, with a value of \$46.6m, at present. Pinheiro had been seeking full coverage, which would have benefited trade worth \$192m.

The package could be delayed when it comes up for approval by EU foreign ministers later this month.

Opposition to the extended list is expected from France, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Italy, which fear the effect of high quality SA produce on their markets.

The new additions to the GSP list include clementines, satsumas and tangerines at 18% duty, compared with 22% currently; limes at 9.6%; and duty-free access for

pistachio nuts.

SA ambassador to the EU Neil van Heerden said he was pleased coverage had been extended, but added: "SA will still be treated differently from other recipients (of GSP)."

In addition, SA exporters had to pay transport costs which exceeded tariffs and were far from being on an equal footing with EU producers.

At the independent European Research Office, official Paul Goodison said the EU proposals had failed to offer better access to some of SA's biggest farm exports.

Avocados — 18% of SA produce sales in the EU, which are shipped between June 1 and November 30 — were on the new list with a 6% tariff. Pineapple juice, accounting for about 3.5% of exports, with a duty of 17%, was also on the list. However, canned pineapples and other tinned fruits, were not down to receive any preferences.

"Even litchi and guava juice, not produced in the EU, have been excluded," Goodison said.

"As they stand, the European Commission's proposals would mean that the legacy of discrimination in agricultural trade which was inherited by the new SA will still exist in large part."

NEWS FOCUS

Most white farmers are redundant

Cosmos Desmond

THANKS to the efforts of Derek Hanekom in pushing a number of Bills through Parliament, the land question is finally being placed on the political agenda. And white farmers are already squealing.

About what? Their comfortable, subsidised lifestyle, which contributes virtually nothing to the economy.

Farmers all over the world have always complained about how hard done by they are. In SA they lodge their complaints by cellular phone as they drive their children to private schools in Mercedes-Benzes. If they are so poor, what have they to lose by change? They cannot claim to be impoverished, while claiming that they stand to lose a fortune if their land is taken away.

SA's previous governments had to molly-coddle the farmers because they needed their votes. The ANC and government of national unity do not need to do that: there are after all, only 58 000 farmers. On the contrary, government can now afford to confront them: if they do not like the new dispensation they can pay back their loans and not receive any subsidies. That would immediately reduce their number to about 12 000, since the rest would have to cede their land to the Land Bank, to which about 80% of white-owned land is mortgaged.

Farmers have been a protected species for long enough; they can hardly complain about being endangered. Their whiteness, however, will ensure that the ANC preserves them from extinction, even though most are redundant.

SA produces about

one-and-a-half times the amount of food it needs to feed its people; it is one of only seven countries — according to a spokesman for the Natal Agricultural Union — that is a net exporter of food. Most of this, however, is produced by a tiny minority of farmers; the rest simply live off their subsidies while their land is mortgaged to the Land Bank.

Many people, especially white farmers, throw up their hands in horror at any suggestion that land should be nationalised, but in effect most of it already is: 11% of the country is held by the state — game parks, forests, etc — while a further 11% is in the hands of local government, in addition to the 80% of farm land vested in the Land Bank.

Only 15% of SA, 17,9-million hectares, is potentially arable, and of this only 3% — a little over 0,5-million hectares — is high-yield land. This minute portion of the country is responsible for 50% of agricultural produce, enough to supply 75% of our domestic needs. A further 33% is provided by farmers with less than 500 hectares each, who together "own" 7% of agricultural land.

So all these whinging farmers, who lay claim to at least 70-million hectares of land, contribute only 17%, less than 0,1% of GDP. (This assumes, for the statistically-minded, that the 3% of high-yield land is made up of farms larger than 500 hectares. Such farms, which occupy 93% of agricultural land — which incorporates the small portion of arable land — are responsible for 67% of agricultural produce; but if 50% of the total comes from 0,5%, only

17% comes from 92,5%).

Most so-called farmers are, therefore, parasites rather than producers. Even the old agriculture department had admitted that only 20%-30% of white-owned farms were profitable. And that profit has been made possible only by exploiting black labour. Whites, generally speaking, only "own" farms; they do not work them.

Most of the land in SA, therefore, is used simply to satisfy whites' lust for ownership, and the status and power this gives them; not to mention the tax benefits and subsidies.

Black farmers would need very little skill to make better use of it. They have shown that they have more than enough skill: they were legislated out of the market to protect white farmers. They do not need "capacity-building" or "empowering"; they simply need land which, with thousands of years experience, they know how to use. It took the foreign "experts" about 50 years to discover, for example, the traditional African practice of mixed cropping was more productive and more ecologically sound than mono-cropping.

It is generally assumed — even by the ANC — that a radical redistribution of land would threaten agricultural production. But simple arithmetic tells us that there are 60-million to 70-million hectares of land which could hardly be less productively used than at present.

It is fear of white reaction rather than any well-founded concern for productivity that inhibits the introduction of a radical land distribution programme.

There is absolutely no doubt that there are lit-

erally millions of hectares of agricultural land, but not particularly arable land, which could be taken out of production and allocated to people for other beneficial purposes without affecting overall agricultural output. Many people want, even need, land, not to become prosperous farmers, but to supplement their meagre income and fulfil social, cultural and religious needs.

It may be incomprehensible to whites, and capitalists in general, but there is more to life than making money. The people's need for land could easily be met; profitability does not come into it. People's dignity could be restored at virtually no cost.

The only casualties would be a few thousand white farmers with dented egos. And they could be more than compensated by writing off their debt to the Land Bank; though they would then have to earn a living in-

stead of living off government subsidies.

The available land would not be sufficient to enable every landless peasant to become a self-supporting farmer; not that it can be assumed that all of them would want to (though it would be a good idea to ask). But there is clearly enough to provide everybody with space to live and carry on some economic activity.

The only problem — admittedly a major one — is working out the mechanisms for implementing the policy, which would exclude patronage, nepotism and corruption and would forestall the likes of Eugene Terre'Blanche getting on — or even falling off — his high horse.

Given the political will, there is surely enough expertise in this country to solve that problem.

□ Desmond was a candidate for the PAC in the 1994 election.

(3) MD 6/7/95

Bam appointed president of Land Claims Court

Staff Reporter

ACTING President Thabo Mbeki has confirmed the appointment of former Robben Island prisoner Fikile Bam as president of the Land Claims Court.

Mr Bam, a partner in the Johannesburg law firm Deneys Reitz, was recommended for the powerful post yesterday by the Judicial Service Commission, which interviewed eight

prospective judges in Cape Town this week.

But the composition of the rest of the new court remains unresolved. Mr Mbeki will select two or three additional judges from a shortlist of five next week.

The additional judges could not be appointed before Mr Mbeki had had a chance to consult Mr Bam, who was out of the country, said a spokesman for Mr Mbeki.

ONLY 7/7/95
The five shortlisted candidates are:

- Cape Town attorney Alan Dodson.
- Former National Peace Secretariat head Antonie Gil-denhuys.
- Eskom executive Justice Moloto.
- Johannesburg attorney Dimpheletse Moshidi.
- Durban attorney Frank Sithole.

(3)
Land affairs expert and legal academic Nic Olivier, one of the most highly qualified candidates to be nominated, was not selected for the shortlist.

The new court has been afforded extensive powers under the constitution, including the ability to order the state to expropriate farms for restitution to their original owners and pay cash compensation to Group Areas Act victims.

LAND

KM 7/7/95

Inkatha on guard

(3) (2/21)

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's vitriolic attack on Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom's Interim Tenure Bill could indicate more about his party's "cold war" against central government than about concern for people being stripped of their land.

But he is adamant that the Bill, along with all land legislation to date, is aimed at centralising the administration and ownership of land in Pretoria and that it will dispossess tribal people of their land, as happened to native Americans.

Others believe the proposed law is intended to plug loopholes following the 1991 Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act until the Tenure Commission reports in 1998.

The University of Natal's Catherine Cross and Peter Rutsch of Durban's Legal Resources Centre point out in a recent article that several rural tenure approaches are being examined by Hanekom's Ministry and there are laws available to give private rights to communities that want freehold. However, there are indications that private tenure is unpopular with most black rural communities.

The four-year vacuum in legislation

while the commission sits has led to legal and administrative confusion which has in some cases created the misconception that tribal leaders own communal land outright.

This fallacy is strengthened by the Ngonyama Trust Act, rushed through parliament just before the 1994 general election, which lodges ownership of land previously owned by the old KwaZulu administration in a statutory trust headed by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelethini.

Land allocation is, of course, a pivotal power of tribal leaders — formerly through the Permission to Occupy (PTO) system which is sometimes, but often not, supported by documentary permission.

So, too, is a more limited power to strip individuals of their right to use land. Any attempt therefore to deny the chiefs these powers would be resisted fiercely.

Cross and Rutsch point out that formal and ordinary land transfers are now proceeding without any legal base.

"Developers and traditional leaders appear to be concluding deals using invalid PTOs."

The problem apparently stems from abuse of this tribal land system whereby, for example, land is sold to private developers or forestry interests without consulting the community or sharing the proceeds.

There have already been several sales of such land in KwaZulu and in particular in

Transkei for the development of holiday cottages.

An extra problem is that the dubious legality of the sales means that land buyers are likely to under-capitalise rather than over-capitalise when developing (thus not creating jobs and wealth in the community) in case they are evicted later.

A specialist involved in drafting Hanekom's proposed Bill says the intention is not to strip chiefs of any powers but rather to ensure that, as in the past, a hearing is held before any land is disposed of.

The idea is to prevent a situation where people find their land or commonage land is being used for forestry or development and they have not even been notified.

But Buthelezi says the history of legislation relating to African land rights is a complex and unhappy one.

"Invariably such legislation was represented as protective or extending African land rights. Subsequent realities belied such claims. Such was the case with the notorious Land Act of 1913 and all its successors," he says.

To date, the effect of all proposed legislation has been to centralise the ownership and administration of land in Pretoria. "Even communal land administered in terms of customary law and usage is now in the hands of central government in Pretoria," claims Buthelezi. ■

POLITICAL BRIEFS

Bam gets top post ⁽³⁾

PRETORIA: Attorney Mr Fikile Bam was yesterday appointed president of the Land Claims Court on the recommendation of the Judicial Services Commission.

CT 7/7/95
A statement from Acting President Thabo Mbeki's office said other court members would be appointed after consulting Mr Bam, who is abroad.

Farmers are ready to sail on the winds of change

The fiery bluster of right-wing farmers has given way to a more pragmatic approach over the new labour tenants' Bill, reports **Eddie Koch**

EDDIE VON MALTITZ swaggered around with a 9mm parabellum strapped to his waist. The *vierkleur* pennant of the ultra-right, was flying at the entrance. And murmurs of discontent rumbled through the ranks as thousands of farmers who had mustered to resist the government's "communist" land policies were asked to welcome the media.

So, when the boot of a scowling man six feet and some inches tall crushed my toes, I put it down to harassment of the kind usually experienced by journalists at these rallies. "Ekskuus," said the giant who, in case I couldn't understand his language, added that he was "so sorry man".

That was the mood that stamped itself on the showgrounds in Newcastle, a grim coal-mining town in KwaZulu-Natal, where some 4 000 boers rolled up in bakkies and Mercedes-Benzes from around the country to present Land Affairs minister Derek Hanekom with the biggest challenge yet to his land reform laws.

There were occasional outbursts of fiery rhetoric. "Take a trip to the battlefields around here if you want to understand what the land means to us," a farmer told journalists during tea break, pointing to the hills where Boer commandos fought British troops and Zulu warriors in the wars of colonial conquest that wracked this region last century.

The media crews came expecting a brigade of khaki-clad men who would vow to throw the country back into the violent events that marred the run-up to this country's freedom elections. But the temper that resonated among most of the men who packed the Newcastle hall, many dressed as if they were at a Sunday church service, was pragmatic, civil, even sensible.

And, up on the podium, the proceedings were being orchestrated not by apocalyptic poets of the far-right but by a yuppie lawyer in a pin-stripe suit and silk tie who, despite the occasional diatribe against Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, spoke the language of appeasement.

The Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill, passed by the Cabinet and gazetted last month so that the public can comment on it before it becomes law, was the main target of attack, mainly because, unlike earlier land redistribution measures, it provides for land to be expro-



propriated from the current owners of "labour farms".

These are large estates, mainly in the south-eastern areas of the Eastern Transvaal and the northern reaches of KwaZulu-Natal surrounding Newcastle, where some 40 000 black families have lived for generations, and now provide free, or virtually free, labour in exchange for a small patch of land for subsistence farming.

"The proposals for action that I am going to propose are quite drastic and dramatic," said the young lawyer called Phillip Nel. He heads up the Agricultural Employers' Organisation (AEO), which claims 7 000 farmers as members and organised the Newcastle rally along with the Transvaal, Orange Free State and KwaZulu-Natal agricultural unions. "So I am going to give all of you a chance to make suggestions from the floor first."

What followed was lots of Hanekom bashing. "Let him come and work next to me with those lily-white hands," said one man. "We should ask Mandela to give him a *blitzkursus* (crash course) in what to do," said another. "We have got a wise president, but there are people in his midst who don't know what they are doing."

Then ... that voice of reason again. "It doesn't help to sit back and complain. We have to accept that agriculture has to undergo a transforma-

tion," said a farmer called Wessel Nel, to applause from the crowd. "April 27 has happened and the duty of organised agriculture is now to help. We are the people who can help to make sure that land is given to small-scale and productive farmers who work."

Now it was time for the young lawyer to present his "dramatic" proposals. There were four of them, each accepted in essence by the crowd as a way forward.

● It was demanded that a negotiating forum be set up comprising provincial and national officials from organised agriculture to negotiate with the government on how to implement land reform. In the meantime, the labour tenants' Bill should be remanded and Hanekom should appoint a "designated person" to liaise on a full-time basis with farmers on issues and conflicts arising from the labour tenant system.

● "We understand that there are needs for (black) people to acquire land. We share this viewpoint," said Nel. He proceeded to propose that all owners of "labour farms" should consider selling their estates to the government, strictly at market rates and on a "willing-buyer-willing-seller basis", so that the minister could have "more land than he dreamt of" for redistribution. Forms were distributed among the crowd so that farmers willing to sell could give

'We are the people who can help to make sure that land is given to small-scale and productive farmers who work'



The haves and the have nots: White landowners (left) will be forced to sell land to labour tenants (above) if the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill becomes law

PHOTOGRAPHS: HENNER FRANKFELD

the AEO a mandate to offer up their land.

● A demand that a committee of farmers from each of the 17 districts affected by the labour tenants' Bill be set up so that ordinary farmers "can get together to discuss and negotiate this thing".

● And then the really radical resolution, one taken straight from the strategies of township civic organisations: "If Derek Hanekom goes on with this law, then we reserve the right as farmers to stop all payments to the provinces and the central government. If we are to be arrested, then we will say 'Where must we report so we can do it now?'"

The farmers cheered in jubilation. One of them tried to pass a motion of no confidence in the Minister of Land Affairs, but was asked by an agricultural union official on the podium to withdraw it, "because we might pick up some dissent if we go *that far*". And voices in the crowd asked if they could go soon after lunchtime because many of them had driven long distances and had work to do before dark.

Commercial farms in South Africa, most of them currently owned by white men, provide five to six million of the poorest people in the countryside with their only means of survival. Eddie von Maltitz, leader of the ultra-right Resistance Against Communism, puts it in racist terms. "Take the white man out of Africa and Africa will die."

John Sender, a left-wing academic from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, argues that there is a need for land redistribution to be balanced with policies which keep productive and adaptable owners — "those capable of achieving the macroeconomic goals of raising employment, real wages, agro-industrial output, and exports" — on the land.

The rally at Newcastle was a measure of the way a substantial section of white farmers is responding to the land question. They accept that redistribution is inevitable and that their labour policies will have to change. Their demands have shifted from reaction to requests for the right to participate in the pace and style of change.

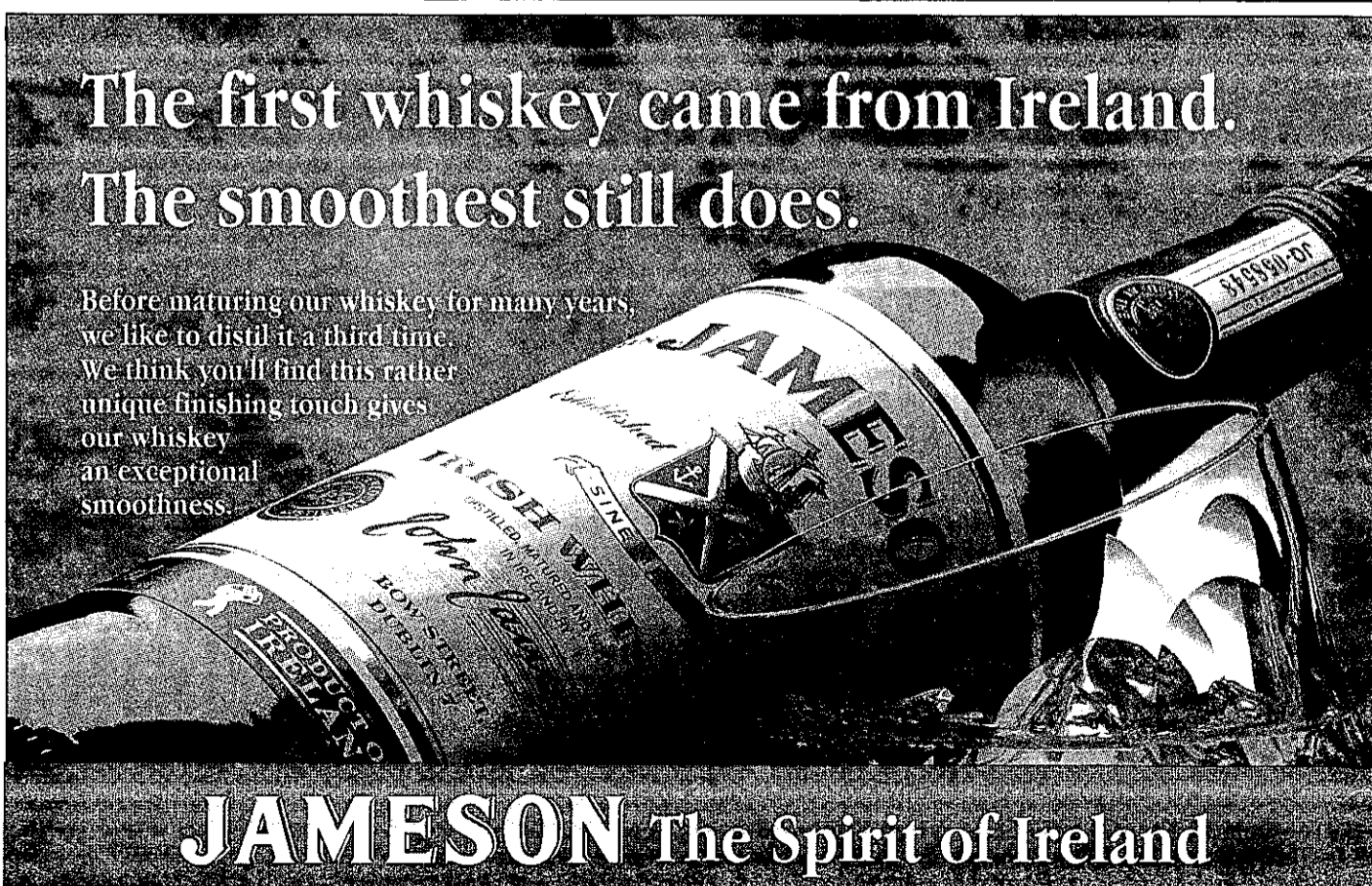
The meeting was also a signal that the neo-fascist movements of this country are on the wane, overshadowed by pragmatic men of the soil who want to rebuild a productive system in the countryside for themselves and their children, who will inhabit the countryside in generations to come.

"There were plenty of Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging members in the crowd," Von Maltitz told me after the meeting. "They want to give this approach a chance to work. We want to try and help this Hanekom and to become players in the game. We'll keep our eye on the ball, because if we don't, we know we'll lose it."

Derek Hanekom would do well to hear their voices. That way the paramilitary uniforms can remain where they are now, being eaten by moths. The khaki-clad prophets of the right can remain on their farms, drinking brandy and coke. And the battlefields of KwaZulu-Natal can stay as they should be, places for inquisitive tourists to come and visit in peace.

The first whiskey came from Ireland.
The smoothest still does.

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JAMESON The Spirit of Ireland

MPs want to keep their other jobs

The parliamentary ethics subcommittee is divided over MPs' outside financial interests, write **Eddie Koch and Marion Edmunds**

STRONG pressure for South African MPs to continue earning lucrative salaries on top of their pay from Parliament is coming from inside an ethics subcommittee set up to devise rules on the controversial issue.

Six of nine MPs on the parliamentary committee, chaired by Water Minister Kader Asmal, advocate the right of MPs to hold second jobs. And at least three committee members are themselves employed outside parliament, according to the latest edition of *Parliamentary Whip*.

"The composition of the subcommittee means it is almost certain to recommend that on this first issue of principle, MPs will continue to be entitled to more than one source of income, even though conflicts of

interest may arise," says the newsletter, published by the Institute for a Democratic South Africa.

The paper quotes a number of ethics committee members, who voice strong support for their right to continue holding company directorships or salary-earning posts outside the Assembly — even though a large number of MPs are pushing for Parliament to be seen as a full-time job.

Another feature emerging from Idasa's investigation is that attitudes toward the question of MPs' remuneration do not conform to party political lines.

Whip quotes Gill Marcus, ANC MP and chair of the finance portfolio in the Assembly, as saying the country needs parliamentarians who devote all their time to making good laws and acting as an effective check on

the Cabinet.

"MPs who do their job diligently should not have time for anything else, and I believe that anyone who is earning from other sources is undoubtedly making a choice about time usage, which ultimately can only be detrimental to their work as an MP," says Marcus.

Furthermore, an MP gains real insight into the workings of government. This insight should be utilised for the benefit of everyone, not primarily for those who have the resources to pay for consultations. Consultations for selected bodies or individuals for further remuneration pose enormous ethical problems if an MP is paid by ordinary taxpayers. Whose interests, then, do they serve?

But Dave Dalling, another ANC member who sits on the ethics committee, has a different view. He is a director of two companies and told *Whip* that he had to "earn other

money" in order to maintain two children at university.

Douglas Gibson of the Democratic Party, also on the committee, is a practising partner in a law firm, while a third member, Piet Mathee from the National Party, practices law on an ad hoc basis.

NP committee member Danie Schutte disagrees with Mathee. He has given up his legal practice because he realises that "parliamentary work, especially in this new dispensation, requires total commitment on the part of MPs".

Schutte was reluctant to ban his colleagues from making extra money outside parliament, but said he did not favour lobbying for outside interests. Consultancies and directorships in companies that benefited from direct access to parliamentary information were "grey areas that required further careful thought".

ANC member Phillip Dexter, a former trade unionist, told the *Mail & Guardian* that "outside interests can-

not be forbidden as long as there is complete transparency, full disclosure to the public". He added that this should include all public figures and not just MPs.

Dexter said remuneration was confused by the debate around the gravy train. He said the debate focuses specifically on the questions of disclosure and whether lobbying by MPs is permissible.

Recent meetings of the ethics subcommittee have focused on the need for full disclosure as the best way to resolve any conflict of interest between parliamentary and outside work.

Asmal recently announced the ANC would advocate that its MPs make their disclosures, which are currently mandatory but restricted to scrutiny by the organisation's national executive, open to the public — even though other political parties have not yet adopted a code on these issues.

WM 7-13/7/95

Gwala's funeral stage-managed by his old foes

Ann Eveleth

REGARDED as the Lion of Natal during his lifetime, Harry Gwala was given the funeral of a political non-entity last Saturday.

Earlier claims by the ANC leadership that 70 000 people would attend rang hollow. Fewer than 20 000 people attended, and the funeral was dominated by those who had a deep-seated dislike for Gwala. His own allies were sidelined, and Winnie Mandela spoke only after putting up a fight behind-the-scenes.

With the Inkatha Freedom Party he defeated in the Midlands waiting in the wings to re-stake its claim, Gwala's deathbed calls for ANC unity were ignored by his opponents' rush to stamp their authority on the militant region, reclaiming in death the leader they scorned in life.

ANC provincial leaders reacted angrily this week to Winnie Mandela's open attack on Gwala's adversaries whom, she said, had poured tributes on Gwala in death though they had never extolled him in his lifetime, raising the "suspicion that many do so from a sense of relief that Gwala has at last been rendered harmless". The sentiments were, however, also alluded to by Gwala's former Robben Island comrade, President Nelson Mandela.

Acknowledging he had "crossed swords" with Gwala on many occasions, Mandela said Gwala had been "honest and blunt in raising issues within the ranks of the liberation movement ... as he departs, we will all do well to ask ourselves whether we were as forthright to him as he was to us; whether we are as honest as he was."

Those close to Gwala argue that, while Mandela and Gwala differed politically, they clashed on open ground, unlike the back-room plans hatched by Gwala's other opponents to isolate him in the months preceding his death. Gwala's opponents were omnipresent at the funeral they arranged for him, with proceedings

ironically directed by two leaders whose deaths Gwala was alleged to have plotted — ANC provincial chairman Jacob Zuma and Communist Party deputy chairman Blade Nzimande.

As master of ceremonies, Zuma asserted his authority in a region where he previously had to tread carefully. His words for Gwala, sources said, amounted to "mumbo jumbo".

There was much criticism of the organisation of the funeral. With 8 000 ANC branch members in Gwala's Dambuza township alone, there were widespread complaints about transport shortages, the scheduling of the funeral early Saturday morning when many people were still working and the holding of the ceremony at Maritzburg's "white" Jan Smuts Stadium — far from from the black townships where Gwala spent his life.

The crowd doubled at the burial site in rural Swayimane, where thousands of locals arrived on foot.

With Gwala out of the picture, sources say ANC restructuring plans to divide the Midlands into four regions will gain momentum, so there will be no clear successor to Gwala's chair. But, with the Greater Pietermaritzburg region destined to become the most powerful of the four, its chairmanship will be a key position in the face of an IFP challenge.

While KwaZulu/Natal deputy chairman Chief Zibuse Mlaba would have been the natural candidate, sources say the new divisions have mapped him out of the running, as his KwaXimba district now falls under the ANC's Durban West region.

Other names mentioned as contenders include Pietermaritzburg Mayor Rob Haswell, provincial MP Shakes Cele, an active member of Gwala's Dambuza branch, and provincial Health MEC Zweli Mkhize, an active member of the significant



Looking pensive: Winnie Mandela had to put up a behind-the-scenes fight before being allowed to speak at Gwala's funeral

PHOTOGRAPH: LEIGH MATTHEWMAN

Willow Fountain branch.

Sources said Nzimande, a one-time Midlands deputy chairman, was unlikely to receive the grassroots support needed for the post if he were to seek it, as his role had been largely academic and he was seen to be too busy in Cape Town.

Provincial deputy secretary Sifiso Nkabinde, also a former Gwala protégé turned against him, is believed to be in the running for the powerful Richmond region. Haswell is also likely to choose the mayorship over the party post, after running circles around the ANC's opponents in the city.

With some sources describing the ANC's Midlands cupboard as "bare"

in the wake of Gwala's death, others point out the ANC will have to get its house in order quickly to fend off an IFP resurgence in the four new regions, which Gwala secured amid harsh territorial battles over the past decade.

The ANC won the Midlands in the 1994 election. Its strategic significance is as clear to the IFP as to Gwala's other political opponents. Ten days ago, IFP Midlands leader David Ntombela overcame years of defeat at Gwala's hands to launch four, simultaneous, "spontaneous" roadblocks there to demand Mandela's arrest for the "Shell House shootings".

Bisho cuts primary school food schemes

WM 7-13/7/95
Stadley Nash

LESS than a week after the Eastern Cape government repeated its promise that 1995 was the year of delivery, it endorsed proposals that will take food out of children's mouths.

Cutbacks to the provincial government school feeding schemes have been announced by the province's Health and Education Ministry in the face of acknowledgments of corruption and maladministration.

By the next school term, up to "two million" children in primary schools currently benefiting from the feeding scheme could be affected, if the proposals, endorsed by the province's RDP Unit and the Education Ministry, go through.

In a statement this week, Health and Education MEC Dr Trudy Thomas' department said overall "budget constraints" forced the re-evaluation of the government's primary school feeding programme.

Ministry spokesman Khululekile Mbata said in reports that the programme currently benefited an estimated two million children in 1 200 schools. He said substantially less money was allocated to the programme for this year's budget than last year, slashing funds from R179-million to R134-million.

The government proposes that feeding at schools currently benefiting from the programme be changed in the following manner: "That feeding will take place twice weekly for all the pupils currently being fed; or that feeding takes place thrice weekly for Sub A to Std 5 pupils or that all Sub As and Sub Bs be fed daily."

The latest price on per head among rural children for a meal of either bread, peanut butter and full cream milk; or bread and "high protein soup"; or fortified biscuits, is 65 cents for rural children, 15 cents more than for their urban counterparts.

The Eastern Cape government has called for submissions on these proposals to be made to Bisho in the next two weeks. — *Ecna*

ANC blames rivals for water crisis

THE ANC has blamed the water shortage crisis in Soweto on sabotage, claiming rival organisations were trying to discredit it in the run-up to the local government elections.

At a press briefing yesterday, the ANC said the role of contractors and subcontractors in the water shortages would be investigated.

"Some political parties are activating their contacts in the old bureaucracy to frustrate the delivery of services, particularly in Soweto," ANC spokesman Thys Nkutha said.

About 500 000 residents in Orlando East, Molapo, Central Western Jabavu, Phiri, Dube and Pimville have been without water since last week because of damaged pipes.

"We never had a crisis of these proportions in Soweto," said ANC MP Steward Ngwenya. "It cannot be purely coincidental."

According to Ngwenya, subcontractors refused to go into Soweto on Saturday, claiming that they feared for their lives.

He said that emergency measures such as delivery of water by tankers had been taken to alleviate the crisis in the short term.

The Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council allocated R50 000 for pipe repairs on Monday.

The ANC alleged subcontractors had deliberately stalled repairs.

"The whole approach of these subcontractors is insensitive to the delivery of essential services to the township," Nkutha said. — Sapa.

Traffic police march to highlight murders

Mduduzi ka Harvey

ABOUT 3 000 Gauteng traffic officers will march on the Transitional Metropolitan Council and the office of safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte today to call for "drastic steps" to curb the killing of traffic officers and police.

A spokesman for the officers, Col Cassius McKay, said officers "were being murdered in cold blood".

The march will be supported by the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union and the SA Municipal Workers' Union.

Their demands, to be handed to TMC acting CEO Nicky Padayachee and Duarte, include mandatory life sentences for murder, particularly of police and traffic officers, armed robbery, car hijackings, child abuse and rape, as well as "severe punishment" for the carrying of illegal firearms and restrictions on the issuing of firearm licences.

Further concerns were the bail system and the procedure for identity parades, McKay said, which should be tightened. Juvenile offenders involved in serious crimes should receive no leniency.

In cases where traffic officers ran the risk of being robbed, assaulted or killed, they should have greater powers, he said. The officers would ask the safety and security ministry

to investigate staff shortages.

McKay said the march was the beginning of a campaign to highlight the plight of police and traffic officers. To raise public awareness, the experiences of survivors and widows would be publicised and public meetings would be held.

Sapa reports the number of police murdered dropped substantially in the first half of this year compared to the first six months of last year.

Commissioner's office spokesman Sally de Beer said yesterday the number of police murdered by the end of June this year was 94 against 137 in the comparative period last year.

Last year 241 police officers were murdered, and was the first drop in the number of police murders over 12 months in a number of years.

In 1993 271 police were killed. De Beer attributed the decline in the number of police murders to the service's increasing credibility.

"We hope this trend continues," she said.

SABC radio news quoted Gauteng community policing chief Brig Zirk Gous as saying fewer police were being murdered and attacked and that the nature of attacks on them was changing.

Gous said police were now being singled out for attack, mainly for their firearms.

Modise lists land returned by SANDF

Tim Cohen

(3) 20/9/95
CAPE TOWN — The SANDF has given up control of about 120 000ha of land formally under its jurisdiction, but has retained control of about 490 000ha, said Defence Minister Joe Modise.

He was responding in parliament to DP MP Ken Andrew, who had asked how much land controlled by the SANDF was suitable for housing development.

Modise said it was difficult to quantify how much land could be used for housing, but said it had been the policy of the SANDF over the past eight years to hand

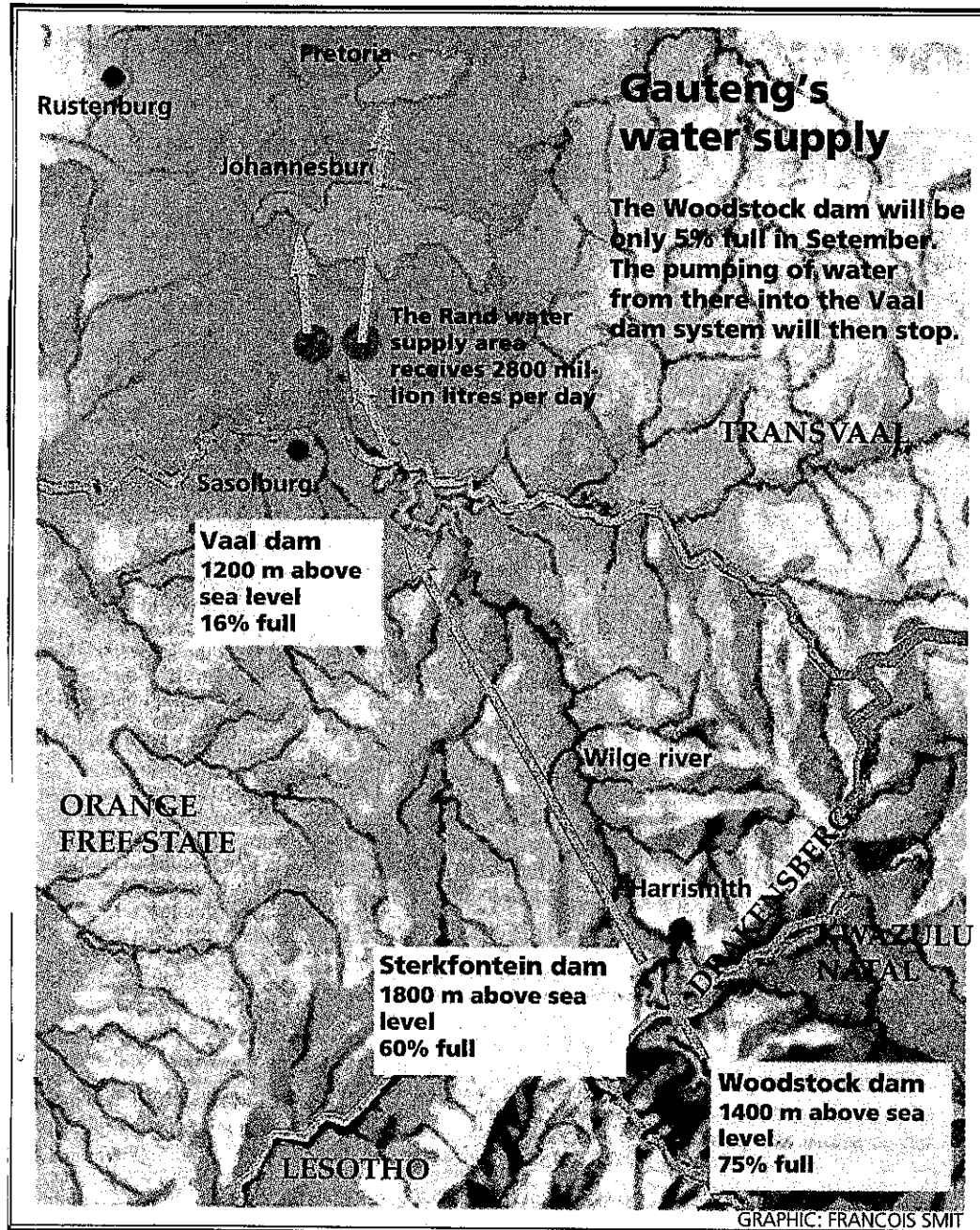
back land no longer required.

As a result, about 50 properties had been made available for urban development.

These areas included land in Goodwood, Khayelitsha, Blue Downs, Muizenburg, De Gama Park and Saldanha in the Western Cape and Winterveld, Schurveberg and Elandsfontein near Pretoria.

The return of certain portions of Wingfield and Youngsfield military bases near Cape Town was under consideration.

However, Wingfield had been suggested as a venue for the Olympic Games, and this would affect other claims to its utilisation, he said.



Sudden urgent attention to the Soweto water crisis smells of electioneering

Star 8/7/95 (3)

After years of having their needs ignored, Soweto residents find the upcoming elections have speeded things up. **BONGIWE MLANGENI** explains

Desperate for a vote in the November elections, political parties seem to have started manipulating the water crisis which has hit thousands of Soweto homes.

The shortage — a direct result of pipe bursts at Jabulani bulk reservoir — left more than 500 000 residents without water in their homes. Some of the residents in Orlando East had been without water for three weeks.

Dry last week

When most parts of the township went dry last week, local councillors showed concern and political parties voiced their anger. The crisis did not seem deliberate to most residents, especially after it was explained that the old steel water pipes which had heavily rusted were being replaced with plastic pipes. However, the issue took a different turn when the ANC claimed that services were being sabotaged to discredit the party in the coming elections. Councillors in Greater Soweto

started to point fingers at each other.

In the 1980s, water pipe bursts and shortages were a common thing in Soweto and did not appear to concern the former local authorities.

But this week the outcry hit the press and the authorities began to address the crisis.

The Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council injected R500 000 to speed up the repair and upgrading of water pipes in the township.

Futile exercise

The urgent attention being given to the pipes was something new to Sowetans.

Local residents were used to sudden water cut-offs without warning and having to walk more than 5km to the nearest water points.

They were also used to living with sewage and refuse pile-up on their doorsteps.

At the time, because of the absence of accountability, authorities were not obliged to give reasons for the shortage of water in their community. Lodging a complaint was a futile exercise for residents.

This time, the political parties serving in the TMC could not afford to allow such negligence to continue unnoticed.

Waste not, want not: cutting back consumption not as

hard as it sounds

Rand Water has compiled some practical advice on saving water so that Gauteng can avoid running dry, writes **NEWTON KANHEMA** (3)

Residents of Gauteng need to cut by 30% their daily water consumption of 2 800-million litres.

Rand Water, which supplies the area, has launched a campaign to save water.

It has offered a few tips on how people can save water — and spare themselves from having to bear the brunt of punitive measures.

Average water consumption varies between 36 and 600 litres a day per person.

The Department of Water Affairs is calling for each person to cut down to using at most 200 litres a day to achieve the necessary 30% reduction in water consumption.

The campaign, to be launched soon, is called Manzi's Water Saving. Its slogan is Water:

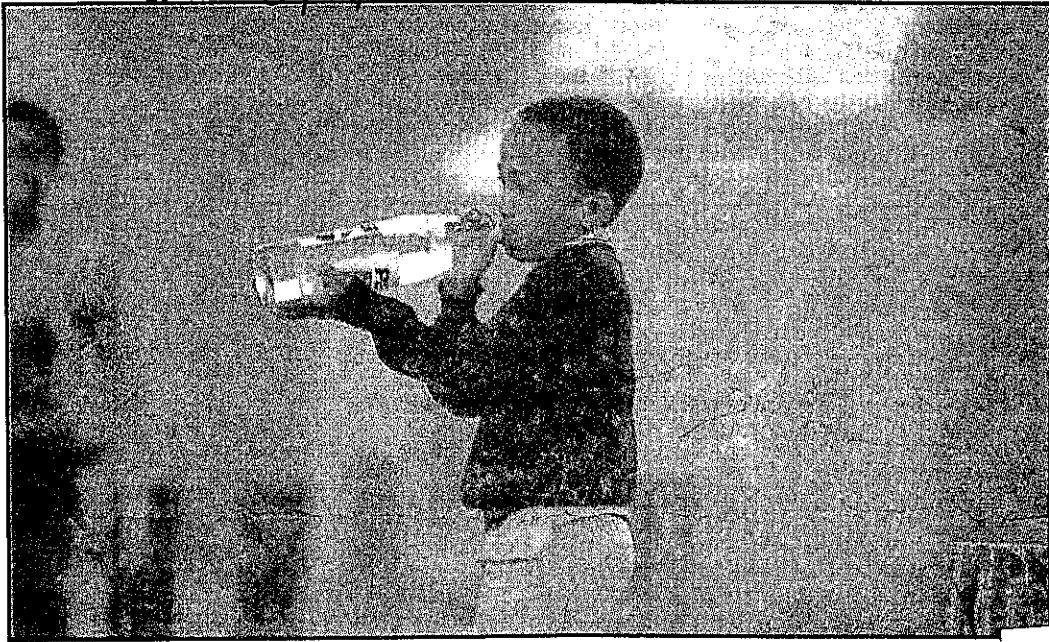
waste not, want not.

Here are a few suggestions as to how everyone can help conserve a precious resource.

■ **Shorter showers:** Showers use 10 to 20 litres of water every minute. A shower lasting three to five minutes uses less water than a full bath. On the other hand, a long shower can use even more, so take a short shower or a shallow soak.

■ **Find and fix all leaks.** A tap that drips once a second wastes 30 litres of water a day. Tighten your taps, check the washers and save buckets.

■ **A tap left running while you brush your teeth, rinse vegetables or shave can waste as much as five litres of water.** Use the plug and stop unused water running straight down the drain.



PRECIOUS ELIXIR: Everyone is going to have to pitch in and make an effort to conserve resource. Can you imagine life without it?
PHOTOGRAPH: THYS DULI

■ Every time a toilet is flushed, about 11 litres of water goes into the sewer. Reduce the amount of water used to flush the toilet by placing an appropriate two litre plastic container filled with water in the cistern (a brick might disintegrate and cause plumbing problems). And remember, the toilet is not a rubbish bin — throw tissues and other waste away, do not flush them down the drain.

■ Wait until you have a full load to wash before running automatic washing machines and dishwashers. Washing machines use approximately 150 litres and dishwashers between 60 and 150 litres of water for every wash, whether they are full or not.

■ Work out how much water your household uses each month and work together to save at least 30% in the next month.

■ Make sure you do not have

any leaks — read the water meter before you go out or when you go to bed at night (ensure no water is being used during this time) and compare the readings when you come back or in the morning.

Slowly

If the meter reading has changed, you probably have a leaking tap or toilet. Find it and fix it.

■ **Water your garden early in the morning or at sunset** so the water does not evaporate in the heat of the day. Let the water sink in slowly — when a lot is applied quickly, most of it runs off. Water roots, not leaves... and definitely not the driveway! Do not water your lawn during winter.

■ Surround the base of plants with a mulch of compost, wood-chips or even leaves and small stones to retain moisture and

your garden beds will need watering less frequently.

■ A swimming pool loses 50 000 litres a year on average through evaporation. If you cover your swimming pool, it will not only cut down evaporation but also reduce the amount of dirt in your pool and keep the heat in.

■ When washing your car, use a bucket and a sponge rather than a hose pipe.

■ Hoses are not playthings! Children squirting water at each other with a hose waste approximately 100 litres in five minutes.

■ Report all instances of water pollution to the nearest regional office of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

If you see any water leaks or running surface water in your area, report it immediately to your local government authority or call the Manzi Water Watch Line at (011) 682-0911.

Gauteng on the brink of a desperate thirst as dam levels keep falling

Unless radical water savings are achieved, our taps will run dry and industry will die, writes **NEWTON KANHEMA**. Our reserves are way below critical level

It's a case of little water anywhere... and soon there might be not a drop to drink. That's the warning from the authorities unless we start conserving water seriously — by at least another 30%.

The entire country is facing a major crisis. The Gauteng region has enough water to last another 60 weeks, which sounds marvellous until one considers that reserves should be maintained to last at least three years.

Water restrictions which will come into effect next month are not an environmental conservation exercise but a desperate attempt to save water until 1998.

"The exercise is purely for our survival and nothing else," says Rand Water spokesman Johan van der Merwe.

"We are in this situation mainly because we are in a drought cycle.

"The levels of water reserves today are comparable to those of 1983 and 1987.

"If we don't save water we can run only for 60 weeks and that will lead to the closure of industry and dry taps in our homes.

"Can you imagine what will happen if the Vaal runs dry?"

"If we have a normal rainy season it will, at most, maintain current levels in the dams.

"We need close to flood conditions or abnormally high rainfall to fill our dams to sufficient levels to have enough water in storage," says Van der Merwe.

"We have only a third of what we require in savings, so 60 weeks' supply is not enough.

"Some people in Soweto have just had an experience of what it is like to be without water because of burst water pipes in their areas."

Construction

Gauteng's water supply is expected to get a boost once the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is completed.

The project was expected to be completed by 1997 but because of tunnel construction problems, Gauteng can expect water from Lesotho only in 1988.

"That, coupled with expected normal rainfall this coming season, will require enforced water restrictions, probably until 1998," Van der Merwe says.

The Department of Water Af-

airs is to introduce punitive measures to avoid a serious water crisis. The measures will take effect on August 1.

Rand Water, the bulk supplier to Gauteng's municipalities, will introduce a quota system.

If a town or city council exceeds its quota, it will be penalised. The council, in turn, will pass the penalties on to the consumer — whether household or industrial.

Currently water use per person per day varies between 36 and 600 litres.

"People who save water will not pay more for their water, but those who do not will pay more.

"Those who abuse water could pay up to 500% more for their water," Van der Merwe warns.

"We cannot penalise a person who saves water.

"To penalise a person who uses 36 litres a day would be unfair, but it would be equally unfair not to penalise those who abuse water.

"We are looking at an average consumption of 200 litres per person per day as a reasonable quota."

If Rand Water did not see a 20% reduction of water consumption following the introduction of punitive measures it might have to prohibit the use of sprinklers and hoses.

STAR 8/7/95

(123)
3

WASTE, WASTE, WASTE ... Consumers were this week still not aware of the water crisis. The government has called for an urgent reduction in water use.

By Pigi ANDRIES MCINEKA

(3) (CP) CP9/7/95

Water crisis deepens

By PEARL RANTSEKENG

SOUTH Africans are facing their worst water crisis and are not even aware of it.

According to the Rand Water Board the country is in the throes of a drought and water from the Vaal Dam - down to 16 percent - is being consumed at a rate of one percent a week.

A major concern is that most people are not even aware of the problem - or worse, they are not taking it seriously. People are still watering their gardens, using

washing machines, leaving taps running and so forth.

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal has called for an urgent 20 percent reduction in water consumption from May this year until March.

The Rand Water Board has established water quotas for bulk purchasers such as the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council (GJTMC).

Director of GJTMC Water and Gas Administration George Key said strict water conservation

measures have been called for to effect an overall 20 percent saving by no later than the end of this month.

"Should this reduction (compared to average figures during a similar period last year) not be realised, the GJTMC may be faced with punitive water tariffs from the first of next month.

"We are already drawing from our precious reserve in the Sterkfontein Dam and assistance from the Lesotho Highlands project will only be possible during the first quarter of 1998," Key said.

The GJTMC has launched a water conservation campaign and has commenced with the distribution of posters, brochures and videos in Gauteng.

"We are totally reliant on the co-operation and responsible behaviour of all users to conserve our limited water resources," said Key.

If you see any water leaks or running surface water in your area, please report it immediately to your Local Government Authority or call the Manzi Water Watch Line at (011) 682-0911.

Land battle over army base

ST(LM) 9/7/95

(3)

LAND Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom has ordered an urgent investigation into a private bid to buy or rent a piece of pristine West Coast land which is being used for training by a crack army unit.

His instruction to the Department of Land Affairs coincides with at least two other looming claims for the former 4th Reconnaissance Regiment's Donkergat base on the western shores of the Langebaan lagoon.

The National Parks Board (NPB) this week said it deserved first option on the land adjoining the West Coast National Park, but Defence Ministry spokesman D A S Herbst dismissed an imminent

handover.

The Democratic Party has suggested the land be given to the National Parks Board if Iscor's controversial steel mill goes ahead on the opposite shore of Saldanha Bay.

A spokesman for Mr Hanekom said the Land

Affairs inquiry would try to identify various claims for the military land, as well as needs relating to it.

"We have to look at optimal land use. If land is not being used optimally, we have to find ways of doing so," Mr Helmuth Schlenter said.

Dr Herbst said the 2 000 ha terrain — the northernmost tip of a peninsula spanned by the Atlantic Ocean and the lagoon — was needed for training.

But, sources claim, Donkergat was "little more than an exclusive resort for military brass".

Military analyst Helmoed Roemer-Heitman

said Donkergat was probably the country's best site for maritime special forces training, being secluded but close to naval facilities.

He described the Donkergat unit — reorganised into 45 Parachute Brigade — as the South African equivalent of Britain's elite Special Boat Squadron.

He said its operatives had probably been involved in a combined police and military raid in May on two trawlers suspected of carrying drugs.

Mr Hanekom ordered an inquiry after being approached by private individuals who say they want to buy or rent the old Donkergat whaling station situated in the military grounds.

A Department of Land Affairs spokesman said the matter was receiving urgent attention.

A NPB spokesman said Donkergat would make a logical addition to the 27 000 ha West Coast National Park.

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

quested interested parties to make submissions in this regard.

(2) Falls away.

Western Cape

(1) (a) and (b) No. Knowledgeable personnel have been designated by the Province to draft a Bill to suit the needs of the Province.

(2) Falls away.

Northern Cape

(1) (a) and (b) No. A Constitutional Affairs Committee has been appointed by the Province to address the matter.

(2) Falls away.

North West

(1) (a) and (b) No. The Office of the Law Advisor in the Province is in the process of drafting a Bill.

(2) Falls away.

Northern Transvaal

(1) (a) and (b) No. The Constitutional Commission of the Province is addressing the matter.

(2) Falls away.

Eastern Transvaal

(1) (a) and (b) No. The Eastern Transvaal Provincial Constitution will be drafted simultaneously with the new National Constitution, as contemplated in section 73 of the Interim Constitution.

(2) Falls away.

KwaZulu-Natal

(1) (a) and (b) No. The Constitutional Committee of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal is in the process of drafting a Bill.

(2) Falls away.

PWV (Gauteng)

(1) (a) and (b) No. The matter is not at present a priority and the drafting of the Provincial Constitution has not been included in the legislative program for 1995.

(2) Falls away.

Orange Free State (Free State)

(1) (a) and (b) No. No Provincial Constitution is currently being prepared.

(2) Falls away.

Information obtained as follows:

Wes-Kaap: Telefonies: Provinsiale Sekretaris: Mnr du Plessis Tel: (021) 483-3116

Oos-Kaap: Per faks/Telefonies: Provinsiale Sekretaris: Mnr de Beer Tel: (0401) 9-1481

Noord-Kaap: Telefonies: Provinsiale Sekretaris: Mnr Mashope Tel: (0531) 81-4760

Noordwes: Per faks/Telefonies: Provinsiale Sekretaris: Mnr Gasebuse Tel: (0140) 89-9308

Noord-Transvaal: Telefonies: Provinsiale Sekretaris: Mnr Tsebane Tel: (0152) 295-2011

Oos-Transvaal: Telefonies: Provinsiale Sekretaris: Mnr Mahlangu Tel: (01311) 5-2132

Vrystaat: Telefonies: Regsadviseur: Mnr J Meyer Tel: (051) 30-1780

KwaZulu-Natal: Per faks/Telefonies: Provinsiale Sekretaris: Mnr Sibisi Tel: (0331) 45-8233

PWV (Gauteng): Telefonies: Provinsiale Sekretaris: Mnr Nkosi Tel: (011) 498-5555

(English version not supplied by Department.)

3 Statutory levies charged by agricultural marketing boards

69. Sen J A JOOSTE asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) What statutory levies are currently being charged by each of the agricultural marketing boards in the Republic in respect of each agricultural industry, (b) on the recommendation of which body was each of these levies originally introduced, (c) (i) which levies were discontinued during the past 10 years and (ii) what was the reason why each such levy was discontinued, (d) what percentage (i) of each board's income comprises statutory levies and (ii) of the turnover of each agricultural industry constitutes statutory levies and (e) (i) which agricultural industries function fully without marketing boards and (ii) since what date in each case?

S144E

Hansard 9/5/95

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) All boards collect an:

- Ordinary levy (section 41 of the Act), which is utilised for administrative expenses by the Board.

- Levies to finance the scheme concerned and its industry. Special levy (section 44 of the Act) which is utilised for research, stabilisation, and product promotion.

- All levies has to be approved by the Minister of Agriculture after the National Marketing Council and the Department of Agriculture evaluated the extent and necessity thereof.

(b) Levies are introduced in terms of decisions taken by boards on which the different groups who have an interest in the product, are represented.

(c) (i) and (ii) The ordinary levy and the special levy are terminated when the scheme for which they were established, falls away, eg in the case of the deregulation of the local marketing of a product as well as the termination of stabilisation measures and local advertising.

(d) (i) The expenditure of boards is normally covered 100% by the collection of levies. Through the years Boards have accumulated reserves with regard to stabilisation funds on which interest is earned. Levies for the operation of a scheme have not changed much while stabilisation levies has been phased out at various boards for example wool. Other sources of income are for example from the leasing of office space which became available as a result of deregulation measures. In such cases this income is also utilised to finance the Board's expenses.

(ii) Normally statutory levies form a minimum part of an agricultural sector's total turnover and can range from more or less 0,03% to 5%. In the case of maize which has been marketed in terms of a single channel system, statutory levies, to provide for export losses, formed 15% of the Board's turnover during 1993/94 which was the Board's total maize sales during that season. It bears mentioning that the

single channel marketing system for maize expired on 30 April 1995.

(e) (i) and (ii) Originally there were 22 Boards. Due to deregulation only 15 Boards currently exists namely:

1. Dry Fruit Board
2. Canning Fruit Board
3. Deciduous Fruit Board
4. Citrus Board
5. Maize Board
6. Wheat Board
7. Oilseeds Board
8. Sorghum Board
9. Meat Board
10. Milk Board
11. Cotton Board
12. Lucerne Board
13. Mohair Board
14. Wool Board
15. Tobacco Board

The Karakul Board was the first to deregulate and ceased to exist during 1987. Since then the schemes of the following Boards were also repealed on the following dates:

- Banana Board — 1 April 1993
- Rooibos Tea Board — 1 October 1993
- Chicory Board — 1 October 1993
- Egg Board — 1 May 1994
- Dairy Board — 31 December 1993
- Dry Bean Board — 31 December 1993
- Potato Board — 31 December 1993

Marketing Boards function progressively more as a co-ordinator within the industry concerned and less as a prescriptive organisation which exercise control.

MK/Apla/TDF/CDF/BNG/VDF members attested in the SANDF

80. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 1 transferred for oral reply on 6 September 1994, any further former members of (a) uMkhonto weSizwe (MK), (b) the Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla), (c) the Transkei Defence Force, (d) the Ciskei Defence Force, (e) the Bophuthatswana National Guard and (f) the Venda Defence Force attested in the South African National Defence Force during the period 30 August 1994 up to the latest specified date for which

INTERPELLATIONS (3)

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

New agricultural marketing legislation

1. Ms J Y LOVE asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether he is introducing any new agricultural marketing legislation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether a new agricultural marketing system providing for a new maize scheme for the 1995-96 marketing season will be established by August 1995; if not, why not; if so, when will such new system be in place?

N549E.INT

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Madam Speaker, the answer to the question is yes, we do intend to draft new agricultural marketing legislation.

A number of committees were appointed since 1992 to investigate the marketing of agricultural products, and the Board on Tariffs and Trade conducted two price investigations into the food chain. They recommended greater competition both domestically and from abroad, and suggested that statutory powers of control boards be deregulated to increase competition in the food chain.

This was followed by the Kassier Committee which investigated the present Marketing Act for agricultural products. They were of the opinion that the Marketing Act has merit and should be retained, provided that powers are not devolved to such an extent that vested interests would dominate society's welfare.

In the light of these reports and the findings contained therein, it became clear that the current agricultural marketing policy, including the Marketing Act, should be reviewed. For this purpose the agricultural marketing policy evaluation committee was appointed. It was widely representative and comprised of members from Government institutions, agricultural control boards, organised agriculture, commercial agri-

Hansard
culture, commodity organisations, developing agriculture, trade and industry, consumer organisations and special legal and agricultural advisers.

They submitted two reports. The first dealt with broad policy issues, and the second report focused on existing marketing measures implemented by the different control boards, and suggested adjustments to these.

A new agricultural marketing Bill was drafted in line with the recommendations received, and presented to the members of the executive councils of the provinces, and published for comment.

The general consensus from the many and varied comments received was in favour of an enabling Act providing for limited statutory marketing. The Bill is still to be approved by Cabinet, and I hope to table it during this session.

Secondly, a new marketing scheme for maize has already become effective as from 1 May 1995. This new maize marketing scheme was negotiated by the maize facilitating committee consisting of all role players in the industry. The details of the scheme entail that buyers and sellers negotiate the sale of maize without intervention by the Maize Board or the Minister.

The board only acts as buyer of last resort for which it administers a floor price based on export parity and an export pool. In this regard the board acts as the sole exporter of maize.

Quantitative input control on maize has been abolished, and a tariff structure for imports has been approved.

Ms J Y LOVE: Madam Speaker, the reason these questions are being raised is due to the concern about the fact that the process towards tabling the new Agricultural Marketing Bill does not seem to end. As the Minister has indicated, this process has been well under way since 1992. We have had the Kassier Commission, then Ampec and then the publication of the so-called "discussion document", that he mentioned, nine weeks ago. At the beginning of next month only we will be having a workshop. The timeframes are continuously changing without there appearing to be new argument or new debate that warrants these delays.

If one looks at the effects of the current impasse on individual commodities, one sees that they are creating a level of uncertainty which cannot continue. As the Minister mentioned, the situation with regard to the maize scheme is that there is an interim system that has been in place as from May 1995. We have as yet no clarity about the system for the 1995-96 crop and that is an uncertainty that again needs to be placed within the context of uncertainty about a new marketing system as a whole.

The current regulation of agricultural marketing remains an involuntary system of ongoing Government intervention, which protects a small number of agricultural producers against market fluctuations. Such protectionism is at the expense of consumers. These consumers also include the majority of agricultural producers.

Any possibility for the State to intervene in the market should be defined within the context of RDP priorities. The delay in placing proposals in this regard in the form of a Bill, has made it difficult to develop a clear understanding about the conditions under which such interventions would serve the interests of the poor and the interests of the majority of people in this country. Instead of moving forward, the organisation of and the debates on agricultural marketing have not kept pace with developments in our country, such as the developments concerning GATT and various decisions in this connection that need to be made. The agricultural sector has not adapted to or found a way to truly impact on such decisions. In addition, the focus of the department has continued to be protectionist, at the expense of creating an enabling environment for the majority of producers and for consumers as a whole.

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon Mrs Mabudaphasi.

Mr P W GROBBELAAR: Madam Speaker . . .

The SPEAKER: Order! Is the hon member rising on a point of order?

Mr P W GROBBELAAR: No, Madam Speaker, I am supposed to be the next speaker.

Mr J CHIOLÉ: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: I would just like to point out that the next speaker should be from the FF.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have been given a different order. Would the Whips please clarify this?

Mr J CHIOLÉ: Madam Speaker, according to the sequence that we are following, the next speaker should be from the FF, namely Mr Pieter Grobbelaar.

The SPEAKER: Order! Yes, I have that in a later sequence. In view of the fact that nobody else is rising, I will now call on Mr Pieter Grobbelaar.

*Mr P W GROBBELAAR: Madam Speaker, a new maize marketing scheme is very important and essential at this stage, because the present delay in the implementation of a new marketing scheme is unacceptable to the maize consumer as well as the maize producer.

For example, the millers have now increased the maize price by about 17%, despite the fact that they have three months' supplies, purchased at the old price. Furthermore, the price which the producer receives for his produce is insufficient to cover the production costs and to derive a reasonable income, not to mention the entrepreneur's fee. On the other hand, the consumer cannot be expected absorb the cost increase because the consumer price is already about five times higher than the producer's price.

Consumers who mainly use maize for fodder, especially in the Western Cape, are also compelled, because of transport costs—an additional cost that is very high because they are far from the maize-producing districts—to consider other alternatives and possibilities because the delivery cost of maize is exorbitant. Therefore, in the interests of the producer as well as the consumer, the formulation of a clearly set-out policy has become a matter of urgency. No further delay can be tolerated. There is great uncertainty in the industry.

The SPEAKER: Order! I now have been given the correct speakers' list. The hon the Minister will be next.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: As regards the time it has taken to get the marketing legislation in place, I would like to point out to the member that it is important to get the consent and co-operation of all of the role players in agriculture. This process was under way and really gained momentum after 27 April 1994. We

could then come into line with what the ANC had formulated outside of the Government and with the department's intentions within the Government. We could then combine these and that is why the legislation and procedures took on momentum from that point onwards.

We now have consensus with all role players, that is organised agriculture as well as NGOs, consumers and processors. It was drafted at the end of last year and we now have a draft to work on. I think that this matter will fall into place.

As far as interventions into agriculture are concerned, this marketing legislation will not be prescriptive. It will enable people either to be governed by it voluntarily, or else to work outside of it should they not wish to function under it. That will then give room for farmers and agriculture to manoeuvre.

We are also in line with GATT, which is one of the reasons we have to devolve powers and move away from registered producers and single-channel marketing. We must come back to tariffs to protect us from imports, which are subsidised from outside.

*As far as the hon member Mr Grobbelaar is concerned, a maize marketing policy has already been implemented. A market action is in place and this marketing scheme was introduced on 1 May at the request of and in co-operation with Nampo and all the role players, and with their consent—exactly the way all the role players proposed it should be done. The only difference is that, whereas in the past . . . [Time expired.]

Mrs R T MABUDAFHASI: Madam Speaker, the question remains why we would produce, or cause to be produced, a product at great cost and effort if we do not have the slightest idea of how much it is going to sell or if it will be bought at all.

Early last year the Minister undertook to reform the system through which the prices of summer grains are established. He indicated that a new system would be in place by August 1994, so that producers should know in time. Despite this undertaking, however, temporary systems were in place in April. The producers and processors evaded this, as well as any co-ordinated approach. This was because of the frustration by the delay which was caused by the Minister. Who suffered? The consumers, of course.

It is about time for a process of voluntary and inclusive negotiations to be adopted as the best way for agricultural prices to be established. We should be looking at a situation where the prices are determined through a forum which consists of producers, processors, those who provide input such as packaging and transport, the retailers, consumers and workers. This would be a great relief to consumers, that they are not always paying higher prices.

Ms J Y LOVE: Madam Speaker, the Minister has mentioned that there is consensus from all role players and I think that this is not correct. I think all role players have been participating in a debate again and again and there are very different points of view. The issue is that a proposal has to be put on the table so that those who are in line with Government policies can prevail.

Secondly, the Minister, in saying that the so-called "discussion document" is not prescriptive and merely enabling, completely misses the point: namely, that we have to accept that intervention cannot be the rule. Intervention has to be used in order to achieve certain policies. The current discussion document allows a free ticket, a carte blanche for intervention, without stating the basis on which that intervention will or will not be acceptable. Such a debate has not been possible; it has not been facilitated and has unfortunately not taken place.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Madam Speaker, I shall firstly attend to the question regarding the prices of agricultural products.

In the past we had a system where control boards determined those prices. That was accepted by farmers and was kept in place. There existed tremendous demand for a change in the system. It was said that the control boards contributed to the high prices which the consumers had to pay. Those people wanted a free-market system so that anybody could buy where he wanted. At that stage I warned that if we moved away from control boards, the consumer would suffer. This is exactly where we are now. There is a drive throughout the whole of the agricultural sector to do away with control measures. Only 15 of the 22 control boards are still in existence, and only one determines the price of its product, namely that of wheat.

Therefore, in terms of the new Act, it is still possible to return to the old system to help with price formulation, but I do not think we can revert to a single, fixed-channel marketing system which distorts the economy.

All I can say is that all the role players agree that the Act has to be changed and that it cannot remain as it is. There is consensus on that aspect. There is also agreement that the legislation should not be prescriptive concerning price control and that the prices agreed upon in terms of the Marketing Act should be published, and that market forces should prevail.

Then there are the smaller differences which can be accommodated in terms of the terminology and the wording of the legislation. There are a number of other aspects which are not relevant to the Act, for example, standards and zoonitary affairs, technical and phytosanitary matters, etc, which are not relevant to this and should not be part of the Act.

Concerning the whole question of the Marketing Act and the maize scheme, I would like to point out that we have the power to intervene if the situation gets out of hand. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

Investigation into actuality programmes: TV/Radio

2. Mr M C J VAN SCHALKWYK asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

Whether he or the South African Broadcasting Corporation will consider instituting an investigation into the (a) content of the actuality programmes on television and radio over the past number of weeks and (b) rationalisation and language policy of the SABC as a public broadcaster; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NS48E.INT

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING: Madam Speaker, the SABC has advertised worldwide for suitable candidates to fill the post of General Manager of Television News Productions, which is currently vacant. An announcement concerning an appointment is imminent. The appointee will be charged with the responsibility of managing the news and current affairs programmes of the SABC-TV and of ensuring

that the editorial content is in line with the values and vision of the SABC and the code of ethics.

A separate investigation into the news and current affairs programmes of the SABC is not currently being considered.

Secondly, the board of the SABC will review the language policy of the SABC-TV at its meeting on 7 June 1995. A final announcement on the content of TV channels is expected on 2 July. The SABC's intention is to launch the new programmes on 2 October 1995. Further debate on the contents and language distribution will be held over until such announcement has been made.

Mr M C J VAN SCHALKWYK: Madam Speaker, *The Star* of 26 April quotes Deputy President Mbeki under the heading, "Mbeki says Movement will divide—Breakup of ANC inevitable", as follows:

The ANC will one day break up into opposing ideological tendencies.

Therefore, there are many members on that side of the Chamber, according to Deputy President Mbeki, who will in time to come not be members of the ANC. Like all opposition parties and the public, those members also have an interest in the public broadcaster, the SABC, not continuing on its present course as the handmaiden of the ANC. The SABC stumbles from one crisis to another. For example, viewership in certain prime time-slots has dropped by as much as 30%. Other issues are the proposed restructuring of television channels about which the board of the SABC has not even been informed and the 30-minute uncensored propaganda slots on television for the Government, as proposed by Deputy President Mbeki.

Mr David Niddrie of the SABC said it was a noble idea and that someone in the Government had advanced convincing arguments. On the same day that Mr Niddrie was quoted in newspapers, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu said the whole idea was news to him. Who is in charge at the SABC?

I can go on and on. This morning, the SABC admitted that they had bungled the issue of Afrikaans on television, and acknowledged that their research was not sound after all.

The SABC created a debacle with the autocratic manner in which it created SAfm. *The Financial Mail* says:

Bam's abiding interest

RECONCILING TRADITIONAL WAYS OF acquiring land rights with Western concepts of ownership is just one of the land restoration challenges facing the Government.

This is the view of Mr Fikile Bam, who was appointed last week as the first president of the newly established Land Claims Court.

Bam made his views known during his interview by the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) last Wednesday, a day before it nominated him for the appointment.

Two of the five people recommended by the JSC for the posts of additional judges of the Land Claims Court will be appointed after consultation with Bam.

During his interview, Bam said judges of the court should have the capacity to be sensitive to the diverse claims that would come before the court.

"I can never overemphasise the importance of the land question," he told the JSC. "In rural communities, the long history of dispossession resulted in poverty because people could no longer survive on subsistence farming.

"In the urban areas, the land question is one of homelessness."

Bam, who gained experience in litigation on land issues as a lawyer in the Transkei and while working at the Legal Resources Centre, said he became interested in the land question when he was a student.

"I have an abiding interest in the subject," Bam said when asked whether he had the attributes which he thought judges of the court should have.

A well known human rights lawyer today, Bam studied history and anthropology at university — subjects he said would help him to evaluate land claims from the perspective of dispossessed African communities.

He believes his role as a mediator for the Independent Mediation Services of South Africa can also help him to resolve disputes, especially at pre-trial conferences.

Commenting on the controversial Section 28 of the Constitution, which entrenches existing property rights, Bam said the section protects those who already have rights to land.

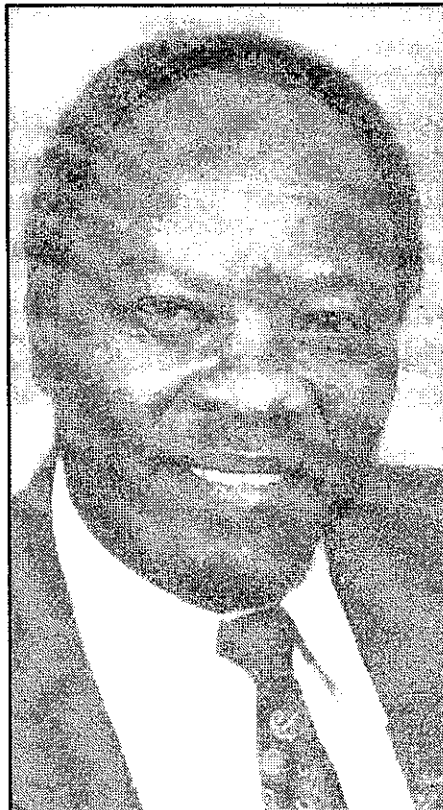
He noted that farmers with vested interests in these rights felt threatened by the Restitution of Land Rights Act, while forms of land tenure in indigenous communities was far from satisfactory.

"The forms of tenure are not clear, and there will be tension about who should have the original title to the land," he said.

While conceding that individuals or communities had the right to decide what to do with their land, Bam said the primary purpose of land restitution should not be simply to restore land, but to do so for a specific purpose such as development.

Mzimasi Ngudle outlines the views of ex-political prisoner Fikile Bam, the newly appointed first president of the Land Claims Court, whose concern about land issues goes back a long way

(3) (A) Sametani
10/7/95



Fikile Bam ... appointed as the first president of the Land Claims Court.

Regarding the referral of disputes to the Land Claims Court, Bam said the court should formulate its own rules as soon as possible to make it more accessible to ordinary people.

In terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, the court would be guided by the rules of the Supreme Court. However, Bam said, these differed from one Supreme Court division to another.

"I am uneasy about the applicability of the Supreme Court rules. The court should not be strictly formal in terms of procedure and evidence," he said.

Describing the role the court should play in addressing the broader land issue, Bam said: "The court is a drop in the ocean in terms of the big task of the restitution of land rights."

He noted that, in so far as the jurisdiction of the court was clearly defined and circumscribed by statute, the court could end up as a rubber stamp for those who already own land.

In many cases, the court will be compelled to make compensatory awards. There would be few instances where urban property, for example, would be restored. One only hopes that this is the beginning of a policy direction which will eventually lead to the restoration of land to those who were dispossessed during the past two centuries

Precisely because of jurisdictional constraints, Bam foresaw possible difficulties which the court would not be able to address.

"In many cases, the court will be compelled to make compensatory awards. There would be few instances where urban property, for example, would be restored," he said.

"One only hopes that this is the beginning of a policy direction which will eventually lead to the restoration of land to those who were dispossessed during the past two centuries."

Bam will clearly be able to play a valuable role in this process.

Born in Tsolo, Transkei, in 1937, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in law from the University of Cape Town.

He continued his studies afterwards through correspondence, and also holds B Proc and LL B degrees from the University of South Africa. He was admitted as an advocate in 1985.

Bam became the first chairman of the prisoners' adult education committee on Robben Island, where he spent 10 years after being convicted on a charge of conspiring to commit sabotage.

Bam is a partner at a Johannesburg firm, specialising in constitutional law.

New water tariffs to curb excessive use

(3) (125) STAN 10/7/95

■ CITY REPORTER

The new water tariff structure introduced in Greater Johannesburg this month made the scarce commodity affordable for all in the metropolis but also penalised excessive use, the city's director of water and gas George Keay said at the weekend.

Keay said in a statement that the new payment structure introduced uniform, but stepped, tariff structures for water consumption in metered domestic dwellings.

Equitable flat rates would apply to the various categories of unmetered domestic supply and to metered non-domestic supply, he added.

The stepped, uniform tariff would create a life-line tariff for the first 10kl of water consumed. The life-line tariff would be subsidised by subsequent tariff brackets which would be applicable for higher consumption of water, he said.

"A stepped tariff structure will also assist in addressing the critical water shortage in the region and Rand Water's target for a 20% overall saving by end July 1995."

According to Keay, studies of consumption patterns have

shown that the average household consumes between 30 and 35kl of water per month.

"The water tariff structure introduced on July 1 1995 not only makes this essential and scarce commodity available and affordable throughout the metropolitan area, but also penalises those who are guilty of using excessive quantities," Keay said.

The new tariff structure for metered monthly domestic use in Greater Johannesburg is R1,20/kl for 10kl or less; R1,70/kl in excess of 10kl up to 20kl; R2,30/kl in excess of 20kl up to 40kl and R2,90/kl for all water consumed in excess of 40kl a month. These charges exclude VAT.

Previous minimum or initial charges, regardless of actual consumption, will not apply to metered domestic supply in future.

In unmetered areas, the rates are set. Informal areas will pay R6 a month, semi-formal areas R12 and formal areas R29.

Non-domestic charges are set at R3/kl.

Hostels, orphanages and similar premises operated by a registered welfare organisation, hospitals, or places of public worship will be charged at R2,30/kl.

Abolition of drought subsidies

*2. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether he has taken note of a call by the Minister of Land Affairs for the abolition of drought subsidies; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether he or his Department intends abolishing such subsidies; if not, why not; if so, (a) why and (b) when;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

(3) Hansard 11/5/95 S121E
 †The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. The Government still accepts the responsibility for giving assistance to alleviate the consequences of natural disasters as far as possible. This is borne out by the R450 million which was allocated in addition to the budget for this purpose. In the draft White Paper on Agriculture we have categorically stated that: Natural disasters such as floods, runaway veld fires, severe droughts and untimely frosts can totally disrupt communities and force farmers, over the whole spectrum of farm sizes, out of business. Such disasters do not include natural phenomena which occur on a regular basis, such as intermittent droughts in the stock-production areas and hailstorms in hail-prone areas or man-made droughts as a result of misuse of resources.

Apart from the alleviation of human suffering caused by natural disasters, Government financial aid to disaster-stricken farmers generally includes measures and conditions aimed at the promotion of natural resources protection and sound farming practices. In other words, there is a sound basis for Government to maintain its financial assistance to farmers and farming communities struck by natural disasters. The basic principle of Governmental finance is not to compensate farmers for the losses incurred as a result of natural disasters but to enable farmers to continue their farming activities in a next season.

(3) No.

Number of single parent families in RSA

*3. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister without Portfolio:

Whether his Department has obtained any statistics on the number of single parent families in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what was the estimated number of single parent families as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

S122E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY (on behalf of the Minister without Portfolio):

The Central Statistical Services (CSS) does not specifically collect information on families as such but does in fact collect information on a household basis. A household consists of a person or a group of people (whether related or not) who usually occupy a dwelling or a part thereof and who provide themselves with food and other necessities, or have made arrangements for such provisions. The latest information in this regard is that of the 1994 October Household Survey (OHS).

According to the 1994 OHS the estimated number of single parent household with dependent children under the age of 21 is 1,5 million against the total estimated number of 8,7 million households. Single parent households therefore represent approximately 17,2% of the total number of households.

Extradition of Deputy Minister to neighbouring state

*6. Sen E A MCHUNU asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether a request has been received from a neighbouring state for the extradition of a certain Deputy Minister who allegedly is being sought by the police services of that state on charges of theft; if so, what was the response thereto; if not,
- (2) whether it is the intention to extradite the said Deputy Minister in the event of such a request being received; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S127E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) No.
- (2) The matter can only be considered after such an application has been received, and the contents thereof studied.

SBDC: Durban conference

*10. Sen A G V NAIDOO asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

- (1) Whether the Small Business Development Corporation has been requested to serve on one or more panels at the presidential conference on the small business policy that took place in Durban recently; if not, why not;
- (2) whether any guidelines have been laid down in relation to the future role and function of SBDC; if not, why not; if so, what guidelines?

S135E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE (on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry):

- (1) Yes, the SBDC was invited to participate on two panels at the President's Conference. Due to a resignation, one of its managers was unable to participate on the finance panel, but the Ministry was able to secure participation on the infrastructure panel. In addition to participation on this panel, the SBDC was one of 50 exhibitors at the conference and a sponsor of the conference brochure.
- (2) Yes, broad guidelines have been agreed upon which entail the following:
 - (a) The adjustment of the SBDC's mission as a private sector-led partnership with Government
 - * to focus its activities on the starting and expanding of financially viable small and medium enterprises through equity investment and/or loan capital; and
 - * to make its expertise in the establishment and running of business property projects also available to other funders of the infrastructural requirements of the SMME sector.
 - (b) As part of the re-alignment of the SBDC, agreement is to be reached

with the Government on the SBDC's asset base and capital structure to give the SBDC certainty to undertake its mission as a private sector-led joint venture with Government.

- (c) The re-alignment of the SBDC, as proposed, will be a gradual process, which before implementation, will have to be sanctioned by the SBDC's decision-making bodies, including the Board of Directors and shareholders of the SBDC. In the implementation process the interests of affected staff and stakeholders of the SBDC will be taken into careful consideration.

Squatter camp in Grabouw: police action

*12. Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (1) Whether the Police have recently acted against any persons in a squatter camp in Grabouw, if so, what were the (a) circumstances that led to this action and, (b) aims with this action;
- (2) whether any violence occurred during or as a result of this action; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether this action was successful; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S137E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (1) No. The only function of the Police was to give protection to the sheriff of the Supreme Court.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable. The action was not conducted by the South African Police Service.

Unlicensed firearms: prosecutions

*13. Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- (1) (a) How many unlicensed firearms were confiscated in 1994 and (b)(i) what type of firearms and (ii) how many of each type of firearm were confiscated;

Bill on land use to level the field, minister says

Louise Cooke

(3) 20 11/7/95
THE Development Facilitation Bill would recognise the equality of different forms of land use, whether in mining, agriculture or

other purposes, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said last night.

Addressing a conference on land reform he said every province should appoint a planning tribunal.

Provincial premiers should appoint half the representatives and government officials should make up the rest.

Hanekom said land reform in SA was substantially different to that in Zimbabwe because an extensive support service was in place to make the local programmes succeed.

And Namibian land reform made no provision for restitution, a key element in the SA programme.

The state had not yet used public purpose expropriation to gain land for its reform programme.

But if the programme needed to resort to this measure, expropriation would indeed be used as a tool in the programme.

The subdivision of the Agricultural Land Act had to be repealed or had to be changed substantially.

It had been an obstacle to market-based land reform.

Other aspects getting attention were rural finance, a land tax which was being debated, and tenure.

Hanekom said the land reform programme would provide for the retention of different tenure systems.

Banks welcome farming futures

Louise Cook

(3) 10/12/7/95
BANKS with extensive agricultural lending divisions have welcomed the launch of an agricultural commodities exchange in SA, saying it would improve risk management in the agricultural sector.

Safex would start trade on July 31 in futures contracts on chilled beef carcasses and forward contracts on maize, grain sorghum, soya beans and sunflower seed.

Standard Bank agricultural division senior manager Rudi Wilsnach said futures contracts had an important role to play in extending credit to producers and agribusiness companies.

"A producer such as a feed lot operator will reduce his risk considerably if he proves that he has fixed both his input costs and potential income from the sale and is left with an adequate profit margin.

"Forwards and futures contracts provide producers with the opportunity to manage their own prices according to their needs at a time when agricultural boards have relinquished price control."

He said financial institutions should be more willing to lend money to producers who manage their risk than to others who get caught in price squeezes.

Absa agricultural finance manager Chris Mostert said bankers would welcome the opportunity for farmers and agro-industries who buy inputs from farmers, to protect themselves from possible adverse price changes.

"Although it is unlikely that a large number of individual farmers will participate in the commodity exchange directly, their agents, co-operatives and commodity brokers will probably fulfill this role.

"The establishment of a futures exchange for agricultural commodities provides an important means to manage price risks. This is important to financiers as the current deregulation process naturally leads to uncertainty and affects farmers' creditworthiness."

But Mostert warned that overseas commodity markets showed that a futures market could not remove all price risks.

"Farmers will still have to play an active role to get the best possible price for their products. They will have to strengthen their marketing skills considerably to ensure that marketing risks remain manageable."

He said Safex would have to ensure "absolute transparency in price forming."

Punitive tariffs likely

3 (22) Star 13/7/95
BY PAULA FRAY
CITY EDITOR

Punitive tariffs on excess water usage are inevitable following the poor response from Greater Johannesburg residents to the urgent call for voluntary cuts in the use of the scarce commodity.

This was the message from Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council executive member Yacoob Makda at the launch last night of the metropolis' water conservation campaign.

Makda, who is chairman of the TMC's Engineering Services Committee, said all local authorities purchasing water in excess of their Rand Water quota would, from August 1, pay an addi-

tional rate of at least R1/kl.

Greater Johannesburg's quota, he said, ranged between 22 and 24-million kilolitres a month.

From next month, purchases in excess of the TMC's quota would be charged an additional R1/kl (excluding VAT) increasing by R1 a month to a maximum of R5.

"The council will have no alternative but to pass this additional punitive tariff on to its consumers," said Makda, acknowledging that they would follow this month's introduction of increased, uniform stepped tariffs.

Responding to a question from The Star, Makda said the punitive tariffs would probably be

in line with the new stepped tariffs. The executive committee has not, as yet, discussed any water restrictions for the region.

Greater Johannesburg residents have not heeded the call to cut down.

In May this year TMC consumers cut their water use by only 10,5%. The combined reduction for May and June was only 6,2%.

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry Highveld regional director Hennie Smit stressed that there were only limited reserves available:

"There is a very real and unacceptable risk that we could end up with even worse restrictions in a year or two," said Smit.

lined by the Natal Game Marketing Association (NGMA)'s seventh annual game auction at Hluhluwe in northern Zululand last week. The bulk of the 1 360 animals under the hammer came from Natal Parks Board reserves, though some originated from the KwaZulu Department of Nature Conservation and Mondi's Bonamanzi Game Ranches.

The auction netted a record R5,1m, well up on last year's R3,2m and this year's pre-auction projection of R4,4m.

The organisers claim the auction to be one of the largest in wild animal auctions worldwide, attracting buyers from as far afield as Europe and Asia.

The Hluhluwe auction, though, is also significant in that it provides a pricing yardstick for game farmers who prefer to sell privately. Private sales for KwaZulu-Natal stand at R2,3m since March and estimates suggest they will exceed R3m before the end of winter when game capture ends.

White rhino were the auction's biggest success, with 64 animals sold at an average of R47 000, up from R32 000 a year ago. The overall income from this section alone exceeded R3m.

Frans Ras of the Stockowners' Association, which organised the auction on behalf of the NGMA, says the influence of foreign buyers clearly boosted prices.

It is understood that many game farmers exported stock, especially white rhino, as they expected post-election political uncertainty to deter big-spending international trophy hunters from visiting SA. But the transition was smooth and hunters came in droves, leaving game farmers short of stock.

"The perception by many buyers was that prices would be low this year and a lot of them, including an agent from Zimbabwe with a R180 000 bank-guaranteed cheque, went away empty-handed," says Ras.

The highest price was for three black rhino bulls and cows sold as a single lot, which netted R140 000 each to a northern Transvaal game rancher. But this was down on last year's average of R150 000. Only four bidders met the stringent requirements.

The biggest of the international buyers was Britain's West Midlands Safari Park which, through an agent, bought six white rhino at prices ranging from R40 000 to R46 000. A Saudi Arabian zoo also bought a rhino and four giraffes.

The Chinese, who were expected to invest heavily in white rhino for a breeding and horn harvesting experiment, pulled out the week before the auction. It is understood they are appointing an agent to buy stock privately.

Parks Board CE George Hughes says the sale of the animals, usually surplus to requirements, contributes to nature conservation. It reduces culling and most of the purchases are used to establish breeding stock on game farms and private reserves. ■

(3) ~~(258)~~
GAME FARMING

Animal attraction

FM 14/7/93

Game farming has become a multimillion-rand industry in KwaZulu-Natal.

The popularity of the industry was under-

Dire warning of dry future if people don't save water

■ BY PAULA FRAY

Greater Johannesburg residents have been urged to redouble water conservation efforts with the warning that at present usage and with continued low rainfall the region might well run out.

Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC) executive committee member Jacob Makda yesterday told councillors the Vaal Dam was only 16% full.

"If we have the same low rainfall ... by December next year there will be no water."

If this happened, added Makda, industries which relied on using water — such as mines — would be severely affected.

Reacting to complaints of leakages of up to 20%, Makda said previous policy appeared to have been that it was cheaper to waste water than fix the pipes.

This had now changed.

The R92-million emergency services initiative had contributed to the fixing of the pipes and in Soweto, where major problems have been experienced, a task team had been set up.

On Wednesday he warned that punitive tariffs would have to be brought in if people did not cut consumption.

Ordinary households could easily save 30% of their water usage, according to a TMC conservation video. Rand Water said these savings can be affected by, among others:

- Taking shorter showers of between three to five minutes.
- Finding and fixing all leaks.
- Closing taps while brushing teeth or cleaning vegetables.
- Limiting toilet flushes and reduce the amount flushed by placing a 2-litre plastic container filled with water into the cistern.
- Waiting for a full load before using an automatic washing machine or dish washer.
- Checking the water meter to ensure there are no unaccounted leaks.
- Watering the garden early in the morning or at sunset.
- Surrounding plant bases with mulch, compost, woodchips or even leaves to retain moisture.
- Planting indigenous plants.
- Redirecting rainwater run-off into the garden or storage tanks.
- Covering the pool to reduce evaporation.
- Using a bucket, not a hosepipe, to wash the car.
- Preventing children from playing with the hosepipe.

(3) (102) Sp4 14/7/95

3 700 lodge land claims

Almost 4 000 land claims
have been lodged with
the Commission on Resti-
tution of Land Rights,
commission head Joe
Seremane said yester-
day.

Claimants had until
May 1997 to lodge claims,
and 3 739 had so far done
so. — Sapa.

STW 14/7/95

Water rates to soar

(3) (23) Stan 15/7/95

By BRONWYN WILKINSON

Consumers are to be heavily punished for failing to save water - and by December could be charged up to 500% extra for use in excess of reasonable requirements.

Rand Water said yesterday additional rates would be slapped on all water supplied to municipalities in excess of the overall 20% savings target set by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

In a statement yesterday, the water supplier said the rates were aimed at penalising all who drew excess water during the current water shortage.

"An average household of five people, for example, should be able to limit its consumption to 24 kilolitres per month and so play their part in helping save our precious water reserves," the statement said.

The punitive measures had

been initiated following the dismal failure of earnest appeals from the Government, Rand Water and municipalities for voluntary savings.

During May and June, Rand Water's consumers managed to reduce their water consumption by 7%, falling far short of the 20% target.

"It was made clear from the start of restrictions at the beginning of May that consumers would be given three months to make the necessary savings in the way they considered best," the statement said.

Rand Water said water reserves in the Vaal River System had fallen to 33% of capacity.

"We are obviously not able to influence the rains, nor are we able to import water from feeder dams that are low, but we are able to control the rate at which we use water."

TO PAGE 2

◆ Water costs

(3) (23)

"It would be grossly irresponsible for anyone in the Vaal River area to waste water in these circumstances for they would be prejudicing the quality of life of others in their communities in the months ahead," Rand Water said.

A reduction of 20% on last year's consumption figure for the Vaal River system would maintain water reserves until early 1998, when the system would draw additional water from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

More than half the water in the Vaal River system goes to Rand Water consumers, more than 65% of whom are householders.

"Householders who consume large quantities of water will therefore be a prime target for the additional rates," Rand Water said.

An additional 114c a kilolitre will be charged on all water sold in excess of quotas from August 1.

The basic price is 111,92c a kilolitre. The rates will be increased until December, when an additional 570c a kilolitre will be charged.

All water sold within the quotas will be at the basic rate.

Stan 15/7/95

(3) (2) Sowetan 17/7/95

LAND Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom has so far sailed smoothly in giving back land to blacks who were forcibly removed by the National Party government. Magoba, Riemvasmaak, Maleeuskop and other communities were relocated easily as their land was predominantly owned by the state, which could buy out a few private owners without many hitches.

But the crunch will come when right-wing white farmers refuse to give up land they bought cheaply from the state, which acquired it by forcibly evicting the original black owners.

Such cases form the bulk of about 4 000 claims received by the National Land Claims Commission, which is now busy registering the claims before gazetting them and inviting objections from registered owners.

One such claim is that of Chief Magwazana Tshabalala, a Swazi chief who has been moving from pillar to post after his unsuccessful appeal to former State President FW de Klerk for his tribe's land to be restored.

Tshabalala said De Klerk referred him to former Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha who, in turn, sent the same policemen who were harassing him to investigate.

Last week Tshabalala lodged his claim at the Pretoria office of National Land Claims commissioner Mr Joe Seremane.

Together with his tribe, the chief is now a fugitive who was whisked from his land in the most disgraceful manner by the NP Government in 1984 who desecrated the graves of their ancestors.

The chief and his people were ordered to leave the area and remove the graves of their elder chiefs and other tribesmen to make way for the building of the Heyshope Dam.

"As Africans, this really undermined us as we have respect for the graves of our ancestors," Tshabalala said shortly after filing claim forms in the commissioner's office.

Hounded by the authorities of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Tshabalala said he was forced to do the unthinkable and rebury his subjects alongside their kings.

This was after he told the local magistrate that people had refused to dig out the bodies of their ancestors. The magistrate retorted: "It's the law. There's nothing I can do. You have to remove those graves."

Altogether 39 bodies had to be removed and placed in a cliff cave (*emgedeni*) meant for kings.

The agony and the plight of his people is writ large in Tshabalala's claim form: "From 1959 until now, my people have been removed from their tribal and ancestral land.

"As their chief, I was deported several times for being an *Inkosi* whose authority over his people has been recognised by the Swaziland monarchy. And for demanding the return of the

The Land Claims Court will be put to test by Chief Magwazana Tshabalala, a Swazi chief who is facing charges of trespassing on land he had bought, writes Political Reporter **Mzimasi Ngudle**.



Chief Magwazana Tshabalala ... the chief without land.

land of our forefathers.

"This land has today been turned into white commercial farms. Hence today I am a chief with a landless tribe which has been scattered in and around our former land as labour tenants."

No compensation was paid and no alternative settlement area was provided. Instead, the Government sent him to KaNgwane where Chief Enos Mabuza said he could not accept people without land.

He later went to settle in Ermelo, while his people were forced to get rented accommodation in the nearby black townships.

While fighting to get his land back, Tshabalala bought a farm in Wakkerstroom to provide a temporary abode for his tribe.

However, it did not take long before neighbouring right-wing farmers colluded with police to chase him from the farm — notwithstanding a valid sale agreement with the previous owner of the farm.

What made matters worse was the chief's membership of the African National Congress, which prompted the police to call him a "bloody communist".

The chief, who has now fled from the farm, will appear in court on August 14 to face charges of trespassing on land he had bought.

Tshabalala comes eleventh in the Tshabalala



National Land Claims commissioner Joe Seremane ... dealing with land claims.

PICS: JOE MOLEFE

genealogical tree of chieftainship which springs from King Tshabalala who, the chief claims, ruled over the four districts of Wakkerstroom, Volksrust, Amersfoort and Memel.

However, for the sake of expediency and feasibility, Tshabalala has restricted his claim to Wakkerstroom district, where he has evidence to support the claim.

The claim has also been restricted to conform with a constitutional prohibition on adjudication of claims predating the 1913 Native Land Act.

Tshabalala said he still has to investigate the possibility of reclaiming land in the other three districts.

The chief has submitted a copy of a 1953 Government Gazette which stripped him of his sovereignty, effectively reducing his people to labour tenants whose rights of tenure were further eroded in 1979 through legislation.

The gazette shows that the land which belonged to the four subdivisions of the Tshabalala tribe was later occupied by white farmers, whom Tshabalala said were now hell-bent on defending their ill-acquired rights.

This is certainly not one of those cases Hanekom handled with ease, but one which may proceed to the Land Claims Court if the National Land Claims Commission fails to resolve the issue.

Punitive water tariffs to cut excessive use

(3) (B) AR 18/7/95
JOHANNESBURG. — Punitive water tariffs would be introduced in Gauteng province in August to reduce water consumption, a Rand Water spokesman said.

“Gauteng is three weeks away from a drastic and punitive tariff scheme ... to achieve essential reduction in water consumption,” Rand Water, Gauteng’s major bulk water supplier, said in a statement.

“If we continue to use water at the current levels and don’t get enough rainfall over the next rainy seasons, there’s a possibility that the water could run out before we link up with the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme,” said Rand Water spokeswoman Mandi Gwele-Maepa.

“That is why we are introducing measures to manage water consumption effectively and prevent water resources from drying up before then,” she said.

Gwele-Maepa said industry and the public had not responded sufficiently to Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal’s call in May for a 20 percent reduction in water consumption.

Heavy penalties would be introduced for excess industrial use from August.

Municipal authorities would set quotas for households and businesses. Reuter.

cost of system maintenance and the cost of fuel. The cost of producing electricity on the infrastructure in place is typically:

- small scale rural photovoltaic power systems—100 to 200c/kWh;
- rural grid connected electricity supply—35 to 300c/kWh depending on the cost of the connection and the level of consumption;
- urban grid connected electricity supply—25c/kWh at a consumption of 500 kWh/month;
- large scale solar energy production for input to the grid—20 to 30c/kWh;
- coal-generated electricity for input to the grid—8c/kWh.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! Would sen Mnisi like to ask a follow-up question?

Sen W F MNISI: No, Mr President!

Sen C H WERTH: Mr President, I would like to ask sen Mnisi a question.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! Unfortunately, we have time constraints. [Laughter.]

New questions:

Preparation of a White Paper on land reform

*1. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister of Land Affairs:†

Whether he and his Department are busy preparing a White Paper on land reform; if so, (a) (i) when did the preparation thereof officially begin and (ii) why did the preparation thereof begin on that date, (b) what process was or is being followed in the preparation thereof and (c) when will this White Paper appear; if not, why not?

S197E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

Yes. *Hansard 18/5/95*
 (a) (i) and (ii) The process of policy development of a comprehensive land reform programme started immediately after my

appointment as Minister of Land Affairs. In last year's budget Vote I outlined a framework for land reform which focused on the restitution of land rights to victims of forced removals; redistribution of land to address urgent land needs and the legacy of denied access to land; and tenure reform to allow for the recognition of and to ensure greater security to different forms of tenure. This framework serves as the point of reference in the Department's work and consultation with interested parties and the general public.

I have deliberately used the first year in office to allow for open debate to test policy options through our pilot programme and to put in place mechanisms and structures to support our work in this complex and sensitive subject of land. This involved amongst others the restructuring of the Department of Land Affairs, the constitutional requirement for a judicial process to deal with restitution, and addressing as a matter of urgency, the rationalisation of a multiplicity of laws dealing with land administration. As I indicated recently in my budget vote, we believe it is now time to consolidate lessons from ongoing work, inputs from interested parties and the general public through a policy formulation process which will culminate in a White Paper on Land Policy.

(b) and (c) On 10 April 1995 I called a meeting of various individuals and institutions involved in the policy and practice of land reform, with the intention of presenting a policy statement on land reform that could be used as a guide by all participants in the process. At this and subsequent meetings of a smaller task team consisting of my advisers, Bahle Sibisi and Joanne Yawitch, Eric Buiten from the Department of Land Affairs, David Cooper of the LAPC and Nick Vink from the Development Bank of South Africa, a proposal was made for the presentation of a White paper on Land Reform to Parliament.

A final White Paper will be ready by the end of October, 1995. This means that a draft paper has to be ready by August. To reach this deadline, a framework docu-

ment to solicit inputs from interested parties and the general public was distributed on 12 May 1995. The document covers the main goals and objectives of the land reform programme. It also identifies the main strategies of the land reform programme and a broad set of issues that will have to be addressed in the White Paper.

Technical teams are being set up to address the wide range of technical issues presented by the land reform programme. The deadline for general inputs and for feedback from the technical teams is 15 June. A technical workshop will be arranged soon after this date, where the inputs will be considered. A final draft report will be compiled by 7 July 1995, and a summary report by 15 July 1995. This summary will be distributed in preparation for a public conference on land reform policy that will be held towards the end of August. A draft White Paper will then be prepared for presentation to Parliament by the end of September 1995.

My purpose in distributing the draft framework document on 12 May 1995 was to enable interested parties to respond before 15 June 1995, in order to ensure that the drafting team will have ample opportunity to consider their inputs during the drafting stage of the White Paper. Furthermore, the intention was also to allow interested parties the opportunity to have an early start in preparing for the public conference in late August.

Sen A E VAN NIEKERK: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply and I thank him for it, I would like to know whether organised agriculture was one of the institutions consulted at the meeting of 10 April, where the whole process really started, as he indicated that he consulted certain persons and institutions?

The MINISTER: Mr President, the policy process has been co-ordinated on my behalf by my advisor, Mr Bahle Sibisi. I had a formal meeting with the executive of the South African Agricultural Union, as well as members of the African Farmers' Union and the Rural Foundation, on Monday of this week—I do not remember the date—where we outlined the process. We invited them to make inputs, which was well received by the South African Agricultural Union. Unfortu-

nately, the National African Farmers' Union, who were also invited, were not present at that meeting.

Sen A E VAN NIEKERK: Mr President, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to know whether that means they were not present at that specific meeting on 10 April?

The MINISTER: Mr President, they were not present.

Formulation of criteria for selection of claimants to land

*2. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister of Land Affairs:†

Whether he and his Department have formulated any criteria for selection in respect of claimants to land; if so, what are these criteria; if not, what is the position in this regard?

S198E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

No. It is the responsibility of Commission on Restitution of Land Rights to prioritise the consideration of claims in accordance with the Restitution of Land Rights Act No 22, 1994. This is spelt out in sections 1(i), 1(xi), 2 and 3 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No 22 of 1994).

†Sen A E VAN NIEKERK: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask what criteria were applied to settle people at a place such as Riemvasmaak?

The MINISTER: Mr President, the question deals with a slightly different matter. The process of establishing the people in Riemvasmaak started a long time ago, but the question refers to the criteria for the selection in respect of claimants to land, which is spelt out in the Constitution and, of course, given detail in the Act. It is, therefore, not up to us to determine criteria. These criteria are well spelt out in the Act.

The case of Riemvasmaak was undisputed. It was acknowledged that the community had a rightful claim to the land. The process began with the co-operation of a number of interested parties and it was felt that it was unnecessary to go through the restitution process. In any event, the process started before the commission was established and before the Act was passed.

†Sen S D FISHER: Mr President, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can the hon the Minister tell us the date on which the whole process commenced, because the hon the Minister praised himself for it recently?

†The MINISTER: Mr President, it is in part a question and in part a statement that I took credit for it. That is not entirely true. I shared in the joy of the community which was dispossessed of their land under the NP government.

*I did not take credit for the process and for the enormous amount of work that went into the restitution of the Riemvasmaak community. I certainly would not take the blame for their removal in the first place, which of course was a very shameful act. However, our responsibility is to help communities such as Riemvasmaak return successfully to their land if they so wish.

The people who I believe deserve credit in the case of Riemvasmaak are essentially NGOs, who worked very closely with the community and, I believe, played a key role in facilitating their return to the land. I should say, subsequently, that the role of the province is to be welcomed as well as the roles of a number of role players, including the Parks Board who played a very constructive role in assisting the people of Riemvasmaak in the resettlement of their land. I would like to mention, in particular, the arrangement which was established between the Parks Board and the Riemvasmaak community to allow for some kind of partnership in the management of 20 000 hectares of that land, which constitutes part of the Augrabies National Park.

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Photo-chemical smog in metropolitan areas: monitoring of levels

1. Senator J SELFE asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether his Department monitors levels of photo-chemical smog in metropolitan areas; if not, why not; if so, what means are being used to monitor such smog levels;

- (2) whether photo-chemical smog levels have ever exceeded internationally accepted levels or standards in the Cape Town metropolitan area; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

S191E.INT

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr President and hon senators, the answer to the first question is as follows: Yes, in co-operation with local authorities by means of monitoring stations equipped with appropriate monitoring equipment.

The answer to the second question is as follows: Yes, nitrogen dioxide and ozone concentrations exceed accepted levels two to five times per year. This is mainly due to Cape Town's exceptional topographical situation and atmospheric conditions. An intensive research programme with the financial support of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is currently being carried out to investigate the problem.

Senator J SELFE: Mr President, we in the Senate should all be deeply concerned about the levels of all types of pollution which exist in South Africa, specifically in our major metropolitan areas.

For years now, South Africa has contributed to global atmospheric pollution far in excess of its population or economic development. In 1987, for example, South Africa produced 332 million tons of carbon dioxide pollutant, 1,9 million tons of sulphur dioxide and over 1,4 million tons of other atmospheric pollutants.

Many of these pollutants are concentrated around our major urban areas and can, in part, be attributed to the still too high incidence of coal-burning stoves. With the concerted campaign to electrify South Africa, this risk is likely to reduce, but the threat posed by photo-chemical smog is likely to increase.

For those members who do not know what photo-chemicals smog is, I will reply as follows: Photo-chemical smog is caused by combustion in petrol engines, which emit carbon monoxide, volatile hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogens. These combine in the sunlight to form ozone containing photo-chemical smog which can be a very dangerous lung irritant, particularly to

people suffering from asthma and bronchial disorders.

The more cars there are on the roads, the more photo-chemical smog there will be. The only way this can be reduced is to supply large amounts of lead-free petrol and by the installation of catalysers in new cars.

As far back as 1991, the President's Council made concrete recommendations to contain this environmental threat. It set three objectives. The first objective was the total removal of lead in petrol; secondly, incentives to convert older vehicles which are traditionally used by less affluent sections of the community for use with lead-free petrol and thirdly, the overall reduction in vehicle emissions.

The power to lay down atmospheric pollution prevention policy, is now being transferred to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, in line with the recommendations of the President's Council. The department is empowered, in terms of section 2 of the Environment Conservation Act, to lay down policy on environmental pollution to be carried out by subsidiary levels of government.

Four years after the report of the President's Council—the project team has been working for some considerable time—the Minister has not yet formulated a policy in terms of the Act. According to Question 201 answered in the National Assembly on 6 April and confirmed again this afternoon by the hon the Deputy Minister, the Minister stated that the project is still in its first phase which involves the compilation of statistics. We take the view that not enough action has been taken. It is not enough at this stage simply to compile statistics. We do not want statistics, we want action. The reason we want action is . . . [Time expired.]

Senator M G E WILEY: Mr President, in 1992 the city council commissioned the De Villiers report on brown haze which cost R30 000. The recommendations of that report were particularly sketchy and basically that was inconclusive, because of the amount of money that was spent. What it did recommend was that a further study should be done.

The Minister pointed out that a study is being done. His department, as well as the city council, must be congratulated on their initiatives. However, interim results at this stage are inconclusive

and it would be speculative to comment on them other than to say that in the March results sulphur dioxide was 200 units as opposed to the internationally recommended 800 units.

This good news notwithstanding, there is definitely a problem. The levels have exceeded the limits in the past. The comment of De Villiers are pertinent considering that Cape Town is a tourist destination and that tourism is our major industry. He says:

The importance of good visibility should not, however, be underestimated when considering that the tourist industry is projected to be one of the major growth industries in Cape Town. Bad visibility could dim the chances of Cape Town exploiting its natural beauty. The quality of life . . .

[Time expired.]

Senator Rev K M ZONDI: Mr President, it is quite obvious that this is a matter of critical importance. There should be monitoring mechanisms in place to monitor the occurrence of smog levels in metropolitan areas of our country. This should be done more so because of the adverse effect photo-chemical smog has on the health of the people as a whole. The time has come to give priority to this issue so that something tangible can be done to deal with this problem with some measure of finality.

Specific attention must be paid to a city like Cape Town. We would urge everybody concerned to make funds available to the department, so that they can deal with this problem effectively.

Senator E K MOORCROFT: Mr President, my colleague Senator Selfe made mention of some of the dangers relating to petrol pollution. What disturbs me about petrol pollution and leaded petrol pollution in particular, is the effect this kind of pollution has on people who are exposed a great degree to petrol fumes to a great degree. An example is people who live along busy highways and streets. These people are at risk.

A recent survey indicated that children who come from areas adjacent to busy highways and streets, have a particularly high concentration of lead in their systems. It is a residual poison. One of the effects of this residual lead poisoning is that it attacks brain cells. It was further found that the average IQ of children who had been exposed to lead poisoning of this kind, was about



The devastating drought of 1895 almost forced the Witwatersrand's gold mines to close. A hundred years later, the area faces yet another big water crisis. Science Writer Anita Allen looks at what could be done.

Will Gauteng be a 'dorsland' soon?

(3) (R2) \$4w 18/7/95

Gauteng sprawls along an ancient mountain which has stood the test of time. From our rich underbelly, we have provided the world with 40% of all the gold yet produced.

That industry has attracted a concentration of people in this smallest province, who together produce about half the revenue in State coffers.

This is the engine that drives the country,

numbers of people concentrated here, it is what they do that is of immediate concern.

The Witwatersrand, as it is known in geological terms, is a watershed. At certain points, water striking the surface runs north and some runs south.

There is such a spot on the University of Witwatersrand campus, where water eventually ends up in the Limpopo and runs

into the Indian Ocean near Maputo. The rest runs south, to the Vaal, Orange and into the Atlantic Ocean at the Orange River delta which is a declared Ramsar site. It is a World Heritage area in trust to the people of South Africa to responsibly care for it on behalf of all other earthlings.

It is the summer home of birds from across the globe and forms

part of one of the greatest spawning grounds on the globe for a variety of marine species.

What we do here in Gauteng affects what happens to that delta ecosystem and the rivers that serve it.

The rain water that falls on our buildings, pavements, roads and homesteads runs off to the nearest spruit. It takes with it all the oil, fer-

tilesers, poisons, toxins and muck that has been carelessly tossed out. Once in the spruit, this joins with the rest of the consequences of our bad habits which we seem to reserve for our precious rivers.

The Limpopo River has long since dried up, only to run in above average rainfall seasons.

What has happened at its headwaters, Gauteng, and all along its banks has seriously altered the flow of the river.

exists go and ask your store manager.

Put pressure on manufacturers to declare their environmental contaminants. Report any discharges you might see immediately.

However, at the end of the day, no matter how crystal clear our headwaters, we will still be drawing more water than we return to our rivers.

At the moment, Gauteng is about to have water restrictions

stream, and then only provided there aren't any droughts.

The Department of Water Affairs has announced that it had awarded a R7,6-million contract to a firm to conduct just the feasibility study into resettling households from land due to be flooded in Phase 1B. The LHWs is the biggest engineering feat in Africa at the moment. Phase 1A, which comes on stream in 1998, has cost about R6-billion.

Another R4-billion will be

by two major dams.

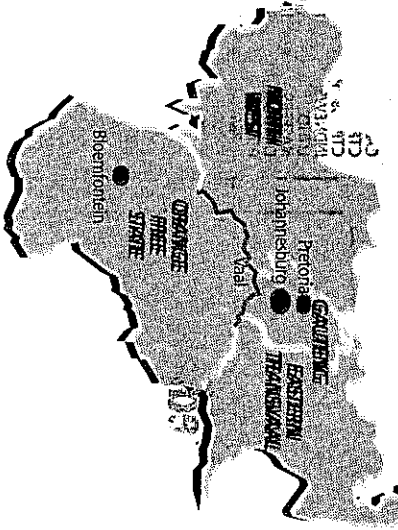
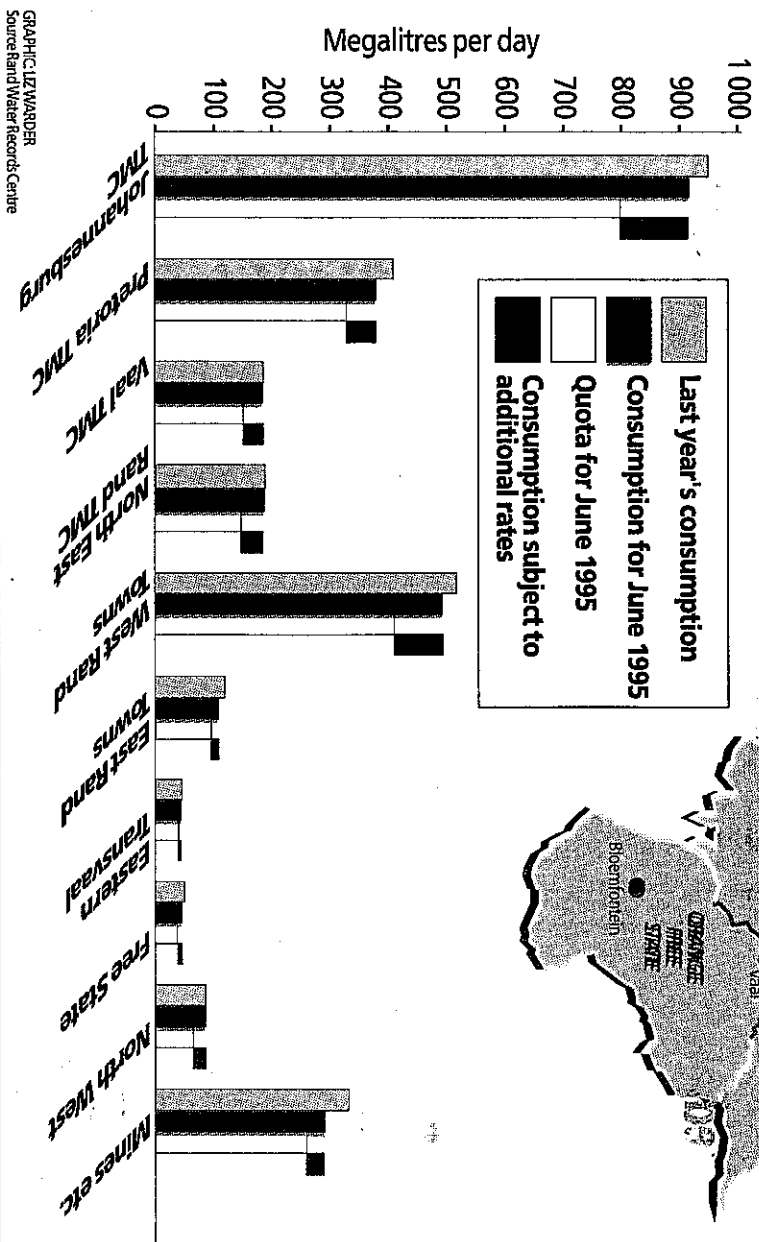
There has been a build up of reeds and they are the preferred habitat of quelea. Their numbers have increased to such a point that they descend on farmers' crops in a cloud of eating frenzy. With each bird gobbling many times its body weight each day, entire fields are obliterated in hours.

If the quelea don't get the farmers then it's the black fly which attacks sheep which then

but we are running out of steam. To start at the beginning, we are exhausting available water supplies. It doesn't matter what great engineering scheme is thought up, Gauteng's pull on water is profoundly unsustainable. It affects large areas of South Africa and our neighbouring countries. It is not just the

Additional amounts payable by bulk consumers

(Based on very poor water savings in June 1995)



Plans to save water

GAUTENG'S stored water supplies are down to 16 months unless this summer brings heavy rain. Rand Water chief executive Vincent Bath spoke to Shirley Woodgate.

Once formulated, the idea will be sold to consumers, who will be asked to cut down to an acceptable norm.

But ultimately, if appeals to save water fail on deaf ears despite education from school level, penalties by way of higher tariffs could become a permanent way of life in the region, where average consumption per person is about 200l per day.

This figure is lower in Kaitleng, for example, which lacks household facilities and appliances, but can be as much as ten times higher in affluent areas, he said.

Asked to save 30% in the drought of 1982/87, consumers got pretty close. But present calls to cut back by 20% have gone unheeded, with savings of 9.7% achieved in May, dropping to 3.8% in June. Bath said.

Johannesburg is one of

very few metropolises anywhere in the world not situated on a major river.

When the mining town started on the Reef, water supplies came from the Brahamfontein Spruit, fountains in Berea, Ellis Park, Sans Souci and Zuurbeekom.

Today the province is responsible for 40% of the country's Gross Domestic Product and is home to 9-million, or a quarter of the country's total population, and still growing.

But instead of drawing its water from the shallow 65-year old Vaal Dam, Gauteng has been forced by the drought to go further afield.

Today it relies heavily on water pumped up from the Tugela River hundreds of kilometers away, which is then released from the deep Sterkfontein Dam near

Harismith to the Vaal Dam.

Short-term plans up to 2005 include augmenting the Vaal River System with water from the R15-billion Lesotho Highlands Water Project, which, after a year's delay, comes on stream in 1998.

But long-term planning includes feasibility studies into the harnessing of water from major rivers in and outside SA.

The Vaal Augmentation Planning Study has identified the Upper Orange, the Tugela and Transkei's Umzimvubu rivers as suitable additional sources of water for Gauteng.

Water could be imported from the Zambezi and even the Congo river - all at a price.

Desalination is out at present because of the excessively high cost of the process, as well as the cost of pumping it 600km

to an elevation of 1 800m above sea level, he said.

Another area which is due to come under the spotlight is that of boreholes and underground water supplies, all relying on rain for replenishment.

The obvious question is: "Why allow Gauteng to continue expanding. Why not take development to the water?"

"The National Party's early policy of decentralisation attempted to curb expansion of the Witwatersrand.

"But incentives and conditions to develop elsewhere in the country

weren't attractive enough. Most of the proposed node developments founded and the Witwatersrand continued to grow.

"Ultimately it is the decision of the entrepreneur whether he will move or stay put. But the real threat to water is not industry but rather population growth, with the residential sector of Gauteng using 65% of the total Rand Water supply.

"Therefore the focus must also be on family planning and on managing the (worldwide) trend of migrating from the rural areas to the cities."

But despite all efforts to keep the taps running, Gauteng now faces the crunch. "We cannot delay forcing people to save water from August 1995, when additional charges for water come into effect," he said.

implemented. We have been asked to cut our water consumption by 20% its our responsibility in a democratic society.

Unrestricted water use is a luxury that no South African can afford, not even municipalities which have unaccounted water losses every month, because their water management system has holes in it.

Then once we've cut the Gauteng water consumption, we've only bought ourselves time until the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme (LHWS) comes on

spent to complete Phase 1B, which comes on stream between 2001 and 2003. At that stage Gauteng will be drawing the pristine waters of the Orange and Tugela rivers.

The LHWS has five phases in its original conception.

But now that calculations have been fine-tuned it's been found no more water can be extracted from the Orange source, if the Orange delta is to survive.

In addition, the flow of the river has been drastically altered

stop breeding.

Somewhere in this, engineers believe there is a balance.

The key to development for any area of this country is the first principle of human settlement: the carrying capacity of any parcel of land is determined by its water.

If we don't balance this equation, in Gauteng or anywhere else in the country, we won't get another thing right, no matter how much money we throw in to feasibility studies and grandiose human interventions.

Farmers oppose council's composition

BLOEMFONTEIN — The Free State Agricultural Union said yesterday it was opposed to the composition of rural local councils being made up of 60% proportionately elected members and 40% nominated members (3)

Union executive member Gerrie Greyling said a decision on the composition of the councils should be made at provincial and not national level. PD 18/7/95
Greyling said it was believed in the Free

State that the ratio could create conflict.

A 50:50 ratio of land users and non-land users would be a better basis for stable government in the province.

The union based its argument on the ownership of land in rural areas, where farmers were the largest income generators and contributors to the economy.

Rural areas had been neglected by central government and had no representation at provincial level. — Sapa.

Catch-22 for water consumers

ARG 19/7/95
JOHANNESBURG. — Local authorities not able to curb water consumption face a five-fold punitive water price rise by December, which Pretoria and Johannesburg authorities say they will pass on to consumers who use too much water.

But prices seem likely to rise even if consumers save water, because authorities have fixed costs they may not meet from limited water sales.

South Africa's largest bulk supplier, Rand Water, has asked local authorities to which it sells water to cut consumption by a fifth. This may rise to half if catchment areas do not have good rains this

year, chief executive Vincent Bath said.

Prices for consumption in excess of agreed quotas are to double monthly between August and September.

Faced with a poor response from consumers, water savings for May and June totalled just seven percent, prompting warnings of punitive tariffs.

Based on June water saving figures, Johannesburg authorities could face an additional R28 million monthly bill by December. Pretoria would have to pay an extra R9 million.

Authorities in both cities say this would have to be passed on to the consumer.

Farmers to get Gauteng land

3) ET 20/7/95

JOHANNESBURG: Gauteng has selected 36 000ha of state farmland north of Pretoria for a trial of its land reform programme, hoping to settle thousands of peasant farmers on their own piece of land.

The Land Affairs Ministry has given the province R35 million for the pilot project, one of the presidential lead projects in

the RDP, manager Mr Kenny Fihla said yesterday.

The intention is to have settled communities farming stock and game, with nearby small agriculture-related businesses, schools, accessible water, amenities and infrastructure.

The project is in the planning stage. — Sapa

Delays to land court

3/17/95

Sowetan 20/7/95
Hitch caused by absence of woman candidate for appointment as judge

By Mzimasi Ngudle

THE absence of an affirmative action woman candidate for appointment as a Land Claims Court judge is one of the two hitches delaying the speedy establishment of the court, *Sowetan* learnt yesterday.

The other is the recommendation by the Judicial Services Commission that more than three judges be appointed to the court to ease the anticipated load of work after the Cabinet's approval of legislation protecting the rights of tenants. The only woman candidate, Mrs Vuyiswa Ramphela, withdrew shortly before the interviews of nine candidates in the Cape early this month, after which the Judicial Services Commission recommended five nominees.

From these five men, President Nelson Mandela must select two to work with Land Claims Court president Mr Fikile Bam. The five men are former national executive director of the Black Lawyers Association Mr Justice Moloto, a veteran KwaZulu-Natal lawyer Mr Frank Sithole, Mr Dimpheletse Moshidi, Alan Dodson, a human rights lawyer who helped victims of forced removals in the Cape, former chairman of the National Peace Secretariat and ex-Broederbond member Dr Antonie Gildenhuys. An informed source said that while there was no problem in selecting a white judge from the present five nominees, the absence of women candidates would impact negatively on perceptions regarding the legitimacy of the court.

Bill will force you off land, farmers told

③ Star 20/7/98

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

Farmers were given a hard-line message by the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) yesterday: reduce the labour force and mechanise, or face being forced off the land.

They were told at platteland meetings this was the only way to stave off government plans which would allow black labourers to buy a portion of the farm on which they live and work.

TAU president Dries Bruwer said at Lichtenburg and Potchefstroom — and will repeat the message at Eastern Transvaal meetings today — that the Government was determined to break the power of white farmers in an attempt to hand over commercial farmlands to black farmers.

He said: "The present president (Nelson Mandela) will not take on agriculture without consulting the TAU."

"If you think you can carry on with the numbers of black workers you employ, I say you are wrong," he said at yesterday's meetings.

Bruwer added: "The very presence of these workers will force you from the land."

"The Land Affairs Department has stated we should develop farms in the knowledge that we are going to hand them over to farmworkers. We are forced to reconsider how many black workers we can keep."

Bruwer described Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom as an enemy of farmers and said farmers had to decide whether they wanted to work with "Hanekom and his henchmen or with the Afrikaner farmer who has taken agriculture to its present state with initiative and work creation for millions of black people".

Rust de Winter earmarked

Land reform test run set to take off

Gauteng has selected 36 000ha of state land north of Pretoria for a trial of its land reform programme, hoping to settle thousands of peasants and black reformers on their own land.

The Land Affairs Ministry has given the province R35-million for the land reform pilot project, one of the presidential lead projects in the RDP, project manager Kenny Fihla said yesterday.

The intention is to settle communities, farming stock and game, with nearby small agriculture-related businesses, schools, accessible water, amenities and infrastructure.

"We would like to see an ideal rural settlement, a viable society, emerging out of Rust de Winter that can contribute to economic development," Fihla said.

Planning stage

Among those likely to benefit are the about 10 000 Litho Ndzundza people who were removed from the area in the 1930s and have a restitution claim on their ancestral land.

Others to be settled are landless communities seeking security of tenure and farmworkers left behind by white farmers removed from the area when it was bought by the previous government to incorporate into KwaNdebele.

The project is still in the planning stage, with land temporarily allocated to people while studies proceed on suitable forms of agriculture, water resources and business potential.

Fihla said the provincial government hoped to start developing and dividing up the area by

mid-1996 and settling people permanently by the end of next year. As many as 30 000 people would be involved.

Land allocations would range from a few hectares for small farmers, to larger farms for cattle and game ranchers. Some white farmers were integrated with rural black communities and would stay on their land.

The Gauteng government also wants the private sector to combine with a community trust and resuscitate three dormant state chicken farms.

The province has set aside 1 700ha of the land for ecotourism, with nature conservation officials surveying a nature reserve and deciding how to integrate it with the project.

Some R10,2-million of the money from Land Affairs has been earmarked for new land acquisitions to supplement state land, and R18,7-million for a "homestead basic-needs grant" similar to urban housing subsidies.

Fihla said Gauteng's development planning, environment and works department wanted to give people access to credit and was negotiating with the Land Bank, the Agricultural Credit Board and the Development Bank for further finance.

Communities, which met fortnightly with government departments about the project, would have a large say in how the project evolved and how money was spent, he said.

The project would help Gauteng to develop policy on land distribution and land tenure reform, and on how to ensure rights to land without destroying its economic potential. — Sapa.

3
21/01/95

Bill will force you off land, farmers told

3 Star 20/7/95

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

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"If you think you can carry on with the numbers of black workers you employ, I say you are wrong," he said at yesterday's meetings.

Bruwer added: "The very presence of these workers will force you from the land.

"The Land Affairs Department has stated we should develop farms in the knowledge that we are going to hand them over to farmworkers. We are forced to reconsider how many black workers we can keep."

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In SA there is no place for subsistence farmers

Justina Nofal

(3) 80 20/7/95
PAC member Cosmos Desmond's article ("Most white farmers are redundant", Business Day, July 6 1995) has to be challenged. His farming profile is fictitious.

By taking for granted the availability and affordability of food, South Africans have forgotten the origin of the food they eat. To an extent this is the fault of the farming sector.

Rudi Wilsnach, Standard Bank agricultural division senior manager says: "Unfortunately not enough is done to communicate the positive news about agriculture to the media. We believe there have been many achievements in the agricultural sector over the past century. SA has built the ability to be self-sufficient in food production and a net earner of foreign exchange in most years despite difficult conditions. That a significant proportion of farmers are financially healthy is a noteworthy achievement."

Few understand the significance of agriculture to the economy, yet just three key points prove it is the sector politicians can least afford to destroy.

First, the milk and sugar in your cappuccino, the pork in your schnitzel, the gas pack salad from Woolies, the maize in your pap, the apples for sale on the pavement — these are SA agriculture products.

Second, we could import cheap food so long as imported food was cheap. We could continue until we ran out of forex. Our agricultural infrastructure would collapse. Then we would be dependent on other countries for food handouts.

This is not an option.

Third, food exports are our largest forex earner after gold and minerals. We are one of only seven net food exporters in the world. And we do need forex. Therefore to produce an agricultural surplus for export is good.

If one accepts that SA agriculture cannot be discarded, then the attitudes of politicians are cause for concern.

SA politicians are ignoring black commercial farmers. There are about 58 000 large-scale commercial farmers in SA, most of them white, and at least 80 000 small-scale commercial farmers, mostly black, who produce mainly vegetables and livestock, or grow sugar cane on contract.

There are more black commercial farmers in SA than white and the economic rules apply to them all. Yet government ignores this and dwells on the idea of subsistence farming.

In fact people in SA do not farm to feed their families with the food they grow. They sell it. The quest by Farmer's Weekly to find a subsistence farmer — a South African who lives from the land without additional income or selling surplus — has yielded no one.

SA politicians are ignoring the agricultural side of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). There is no urgency in government to create a suitable tariff-setting body to respond quickly to dumping of overseas agricultural product on our market. Effects of this negligence are already showing. Broiler production is under threat from bulk frozen chicken shipped in; the red meat industry is in disarray because of dumping; and dairy products are flooding into SA. As a result, local farmers are being forced out of production.

SA politicians give subsidies paid in the past as the reason why commercial farmers should not exist in the future, yet through subsidies the government has helped many agricultural industries survive drought — in the process protecting the jobs of millions of farm workers and

their dependants.

Subsidies are a part of all countries' national life. There is no reason to be more suspicious of farm subsidies in SA than anywhere else.

Governments of our GATT competitors bail out their farmers on a scale which is the envy of our farmers, and those countries don't have our drought problems.

SA agriculture with its 16% PSE (producer subsidy equivalent calculated in 1991 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is way behind the EU (49%), the US (27%), Japan (61%) and Switzerland (79%).

Saying subsidies were paid to white farmers to keep them fat and earn their votes makes no sense. More than 60 000 white commercial farmers were forced from the land in the past 30 years by financial pressure. At the height of their numbers, about 130 000, they did not constitute a large percentage of the electorate.

Politicians imply that greed is responsible for the large size of farms in SA. In fact, farm sizes have grown due to the increasing pressure of rocketing input costs and interest rates. Economies of scale, not whim, have increased the sizes of farms.

SA politicians cite the existence of the Land Bank as proof that white commercial farmers are spoilt. This existence of the Land Bank proves nothing — and the Land Bank does not hold mortgages over 80% of SA's arable land as Desmond alleges.

"Our portfolio would look a lot different if this was true," says Land Bank GM Freddie van Staden, adding that the Land Bank borrows money from the capital markets to lend.

Total farm debt market share at the end of last year was: Land Bank 22%, co-ops 25%, commercial banks 30% Agricultural Credit Board 9%, private 8%; other financial institutions 2% and other 4%.

This kind of shaky thinking is emerging in government policy on land and agriculture. The ANC takes its cue from the Land and Agricultural Policy Centre (LAPC).

The LAPC has ANC office bearers and ANC-appointed land affairs department officials on the board. In fact, it even puts out press releases on behalf of the land affairs ministry.

The LAPC is dazzled by the deluge of dubious World Bank opinions on SA agricultural and land matters, such as the view that maize farming should be curtailed by calling in farmers' debt and the land given to the poor.

Funds flow into the LAPC, a section 21 company, from the following foreign donors, who are our GATT competitors: the EU, Overseas Development Administration (UK), Danida (Danish International Development Agency), USAid (US), International Development Research Centre (Canada) and Sida (Sweden).

The SA electorate is not allowed to know how much funding comes in or how it is spent. The LAPC is behind the land affairs ministry document on land reform, which says government should "support potential participants in organising to express a realistic demand for land". What is to be done with the land is not clear, although the RDP White Paper calls for 30% of agricultural land to be redistributed.

The reality is that it is difficult to farm commercially with success. Settling people on arid sub-economic plots in the hopes they will resort to subsistence farming will not bring dignity, as Desmond asserts, only poverty for all.

□ Nofal is an agricultural writer for Farmer's Weekly and Reuters.

State land for the destitute

Kevin O'Grady

MORE than 35 000ha of state-owned land north-east of Pretoria is to be developed for landless and destitute communities at a cost of R35m, the Gauteng government said yesterday.

The "ambitious" project, part of the land reform pilot programme, was expected to benefit about 40 000 people in the Rust Der Winter area which borders Northern Province and Eastern Transvaal, programme manager Kenny Fihla said.

Of the R35m budget from the land affairs department, R2m would be spent on administering the project, R10,2m on land acquisition, R3m on planning and R18,7m on basic needs grants, "similar to housing subsidies in urban areas".

The department had started talks aimed at making further funds available, with the Land Bank, the Agricultural Credit Board and the Development Bank of SA.

Interim land allocations to a number of

farming communities had already been agreed upon and 1 700ha had been set aside as a game reserve.

About 100 black farmers would have to be relocated from the area in which the reserve was to be established, he said.

There were also about 30 white farmers who had leased land from government since it was expropriated for incorporation into Kwandebele. They would be relocated by agreement.

Many people — particularly the Manala, Litho Ndzundza, Mtimunye and Kwandebele farmers and the Vuka uZenzele community — who had historical claims to the land would be eligible to be given land as part of the project, Fihla said.

There were three poultry farms, with an employment capacity for about 70 people, on the land and the development, planning environment and works department had advertised for proposals from the private sector to operate them in a joint venture with a community trust.

Parties agree to amendment

New hope for consensus on land Bill

(3) ~~4~~
Stom 21/7/95

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom is confident that the hotly disputed Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill can be amended to make it acceptable to all stakeholders.

He spent the last two days in Dundee, KwaZulu-Natal, thrashing out the draft legislation with representatives of organised agriculture and organisations serving labour tenants.

And he returned to Pretoria declaring: "There is a real possibility that the impossible will have been achieved."

He said the parties had agreed that amendments should be made to the draft Bill to distinguish labour tenants more clearly from other farmworkers and to provide

more flexibility in the way that labour tenants would exercise their right to acquire land.

The initial draft provided for the enforced sale of the portion of the farm occupied by the labour tenant, should the tenant make an offer to buy.

At this week's meeting it was agreed that an amendment would provide for an arbitration process to decide whether the labour tenant would be entitled to buy the land on which he or she was living or whether he or she would get access to alternative land.

The amended Bill will go to the Cabinet on August 2. At about the same time it will be made available to the SA Agricultural Union for presentation to its general council meeting.

Rural service organisations will simultaneously canvass labour tenants on the changes.

Hanekom seemed hopeful that the meeting had laid to rest the farmers' threats to withhold taxes if the Bill became law and the labour tenants' threats to invade land if it did not.

He conceded that the meeting had been emotional at times. But, he said, "people adhered to mutual respect for each other's views and that was the atmosphere throughout".

The Bill only covers labour tenants — workers whose "pay" comprises mainly the right to occupy and cultivate for themselves a patch of the farmer's land. And it applies only in parts of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Transvaal.

Hitch in land claims

IT'S A cold, grey July day. In a field on the road to Elandslaagte in KwaZulu-Natal a group of people have gathered. The field is part of Crimen, a 623 hectare farm, now the subject of a formal land claim.

The people are members of the Crimen community, the former legal owners of this land before their forced removal 18 years ago.

Also there are Mr André Dreyer, the current legal owner, Mr Phillip Naudé, who is leasing the land and KwaZulu-Natal commissioner on restitution of land rights Ms Cheryl Walker. They have come to talk about the community getting access to ancestral graves on the farm. It's the first time since their removal that they have legally set foot on the land.

A syndicate of 28 Africans bought Crimen in 1911, before the 1913 Native Land Act was passed. Their expropriation was part of the former National Party government's policy of "black spot" removal.

Mr Andries Radebe, who was born on Crimen, was one of the landowners removed. "In July 1977 government officials told the community they had to leave. The removals were to start the following day," he recalled.

"People rushed to their homes to pack and make arrangements for their cattle. We had no option. During the removal there were six or seven trucks full of soldiers on the road to Crimen farm. We knew there would be trouble if we resisted."

'Lives changed drastically'

Almost 3 000 landowners and tenants were removed and "relocated" to Ezakheni, a former KwaZulu township outside Ladysmith.

"Our lives changed drastically," Radebe remembers. "There was not even a small garden for us to plant food. If you wanted to eat, you had to pay a lot of money. I do not understand why we were taken away from Crimen."

For 11 years after the forced removal, the Crimen farm lay fallow. In 1988 it was sold to a white farmer by public auction.

Before the Commission on Restitution was established this year, the community had already tried various ways to get back their land. These included attempts at negotiating with the former government.

After the Group Areas and Land Acts were scrapped, they tried to reoccupy the land in April 1991. This was blocked by the police and army when they arrived at Crimen and several of them were arrested. In 1993 they tried legal action. Crimen also campaigned for a restitution process.

Now the community has lodged its land claim with the Commission on Restitution. It is likely to be one of the first cases which it resolves.

The discussion between the Crimen Mayibuye Committee, Naudé and Walker centres on detailed practical arrangements to allow

Compensation for land handed back to people who were forcibly removed could become the Achille's heel of the Government's land reform programme. **Estelle Randall** explains why...

(3) ~~(2)~~ *sowetan 24/8/95*



RECLAIMING THE PAST ... Eric Radebe next to his father's grave on Crimen farm.

the community access to the graves — some of which date back to 1912.

Dreyer thinks his father, from whom he inherited the farm, paid about R180 000 when the former government auctioned it in 1988. He is a practising attorney in Dundee and has never lived at Crimen. About six months ago he leased the land to Naudé, who owns a farm in Dundee and two others adjoining Crimen. Naudé has no problem with the community's claim. "It's the new South Africa, isn't it?" he says.

Dreyer admits he has no interest in the land and that he is actually prevented from selling it because of a court interdict resulting from the community's claim. "I sold the two other farms to Mr Naudé," he says.

It seems common cause that the community should have their land restored. The only point at issue is likely to be the compensation which the state pays to Dreyer.

"I believe in human rights but I wouldn't want to be deprived of what I'm entitled to," is his view.

What current landowners are entitled to receive as compensation for land handed back to

people who were forcibly removed could become the Achille's heel of the Government's land reform programme.

Not only does the interim Constitution protect current property owners' land rights, it also specifies that they cannot be expropriated without being compensated.

The Constitution specifies several factors that have to be taken into account in arriving at "just and equitable compensation" when land is handed back to claimants.

Besides market value, the history of the property's acquisition, its present use, investments by the legal owner and the interests of all parties concerned must be taken into account. But the Constitution does not say how these factors should be taken into account or how they should be weighted in relation to each other.

Compensation formula

In the absence of a clear compensation formula for restitution, resolution of the Crimen claim may well give pointers for how landowners get compensation in subsequent restitution cases.

Experiences in other countries and South African case law and experience suggests that "just and equitable compensation" amounts to compensation at market values, even if other factors are also taken into account.

Organisations working in the land sector, such as the National Land Committee and the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, have asked the Constitutional Assembly to scrap the property rights clause from the final Constitution.

They argue that the constitutional obligation on the Government to pay current landowners mainly market value compensation will bankrupt the land reform budget.

Others have argued that if market value is to be the main basis for compensating landowners in restitution cases, then current market values must reflect true current conditions.

These should include factors which would influence private buyers, such as drought and the threat of land invasion.

The Department of Land Affairs is currently drafting a White Paper on land reform. This, together with the debate on the final Constitution, will hopefully address potential risks in the land reform programme.

Meanwhile, as broad policy gets refined, the Crimen people are already planning their return.

Star 24/7/95

Land claims delay La Lucia decision

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

A decision on mining at Lake St Lucia is not possible until the land claims by various people who were forcibly removed has been decided, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

He was reacting to a call by the Campaign for St Lucia for the Government to make a "decision without further delay".

"The position is that the Leon Commission identified the grave and urgent need to attend to the problem surrounding the claims of indigenous people removed from the land. While mineral rights have not been separated from surface rights, ownership of the land is part and parcel of the decision," the Mineral and Energy spokesman said.

Cherryl Walker, commissioner on restitution of land rights for KwaZulu-Natal, told The Star that at this stage it was

impossible to give a timetable about the land claims.

"It is quite a complex matter, with more than one claimant. The process of resolution can't be done on the basis of only some of the issues ...," Walker said.

She added that the matter would more than likely have to go to the Land Claims Court.

The Campaign for St Lucia claimed that there was no justifiable reason for not making a decision on the mining issue.

"The delay is preventing the development of the St Lucia region into the most important conservation and ecotourism area in southern Africa.

"The result of this delay is to the detriment of the KwaZulu-Natal region and to South Africa as a whole in that the obvious economic benefits are being prevented from occurring now when they are most needed," Campaign for St Lucia co-ordinator Oliff d'Oliveira said in a statement.

Credit crisis warning
over land reform Bill

(3) (2) 26/7/95
DURBAN — Farmers and bankers have warned that agriculture might face a credit crisis unless the land reform Bill is amended before going to Cabinet for approval on August 2.

One of their prime concerns was that the legislation could affect farm land value, undermining its use as bank loan security.

The Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill, seen as part of government's land reform programme, proposes rights for labour tenants loosely defined as farm dwellers who had or have use of arable or grazing land in return for labour to the owner or lessee of a farm. The term includes the labourers' dependants.

In terms of the proposed Bill, labour tenants in specified magisterial districts — mainly districts in KwaZulu-Natal and those in the Eastern Transvaal — could be granted ownership rights to land on farms after negotiations.

SA Agricultural Union social services chief director Kobus Kleynhans said farmers feared the Bill would lead to squatter communities moving on to farms.

However, government and land research organisations say the Bill is aimed at granting rights to a specific category of people, not at undermining the wellbeing of predominantly white-owned farms.

Land affairs ministry spokesman Helmut Schlenker said a technical committee had been set up to address farmers' fears, including adequate compensation.

The committee was expected to finalise Bill amendments by Thursday. — Sapa.

Gildenhuys appointed to land court

PRETORIA: President Nelson Mandela has appointed former National Peace Secretariat chairman Dr Antonie Gildenhuys as a Land Claims Court judge, the president's office said yesterday. Land rights activist Mr Alan Dodson and former Black Lawyers' Association legal educationalist Mr Justice Moloto were also appointed as judges.

3 27/7/95
CT 27/7/95

More judges for LCC

Sowetan 27/9/95 (3) (4) (5)

MR JUSTICE Bakone Moloto, a veteran lawyer and activist, is one of three judges who were appointed to the Land Claims Court yesterday.

The other two, announced by President Nelson Mandela, are former chairman of the National Peace Secretariat Dr Antonie Gildenhuys and Cape human rights lawyer Mr Alan Dodson.

The appointments will complete the composition of the court to be presided over by Johannesburg lawyer Mr Fikile Bam.

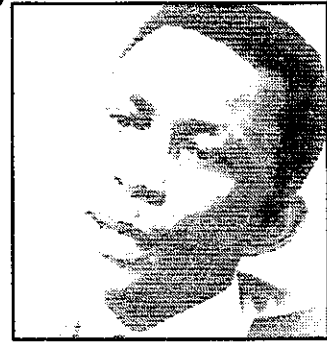
Gildenhuys and Moloto, a former national executive director of the Black Lawyers Association, were picked from a short list of five

nominees.

The other two were KwaZulu-Natal advocate Mr Frank Sithole and Mr Dimpheletse Moshidi of Johannesburg who is also a BLA executive member.

While it was expected that an affirmative appointment would be made, the absence of a woman in the final selection would impact negatively on the legitimacy of the court, according to earlier expert opinion.

However, the only woman candidate, Mrs Vuyiswa Ramphele, withdrew shortly before the interviews of nine candidates in Cape Town.



Mr Justice Moloto ... appointed to the Land Claims Court yesterday.

3 more land court judges named

(3) (271) (252) Stan 27/7/95
President Nelson Mandela has appointed three additional judges to the Land Claims Court after consulting the court's president Mr Justice Fikele Bam.

The court's expected workload made it desirable that five judges be appointed, Mandela said.

The three are Alan Dodson, Dr Antonie Gildenhuys and Mr Justice Moloto. A further judge would be appointed after consult-

ing the Judicial Service Commission and Bam.

Mandela said the names submitted did not include women and he hoped suitable candidates would come forward. He added: "The court has a critical role to play in ensuring we deal effectively and fairly with the sensitive issue of redressing past discrimination in respect of land ownership and occupation." — Sapa.

Extra judges are appointed

Bonile Ngqiyaza

THREE additional judges had been appointed to the Land Claims Court after consultation between President Nelson Mandela and the court's president Fikile Bam, the president's office said yesterday.

The three appointees were Alan Dodson, Antonie Gildenhuys and Justice Moloto. A further judge would be appointed after consulting the Judicial Services Commission and Bam.

The president said the anticipated workload of the court made it "desirable" that up to five new judges be appointed.

"The Land Claims Court has a critical role to play in ensuring we deal effectively and fairly with the sensitive issue of redressing past

discrimination in respect of land ownership and occupation" Mandela said.

Dodson, an attorney in a Cape Town firm, has experience in the field of human rights. He has been involved in land development matters as advisory board member of the Western Cape-based Surplus Peoples Project.

Gildenhuys, a practising attorney in Johannesburg, is an acknowledged expert in property law, water law, the law regarding town and regional planning, and general commercial law. He is also a leading authority on expropriation law.

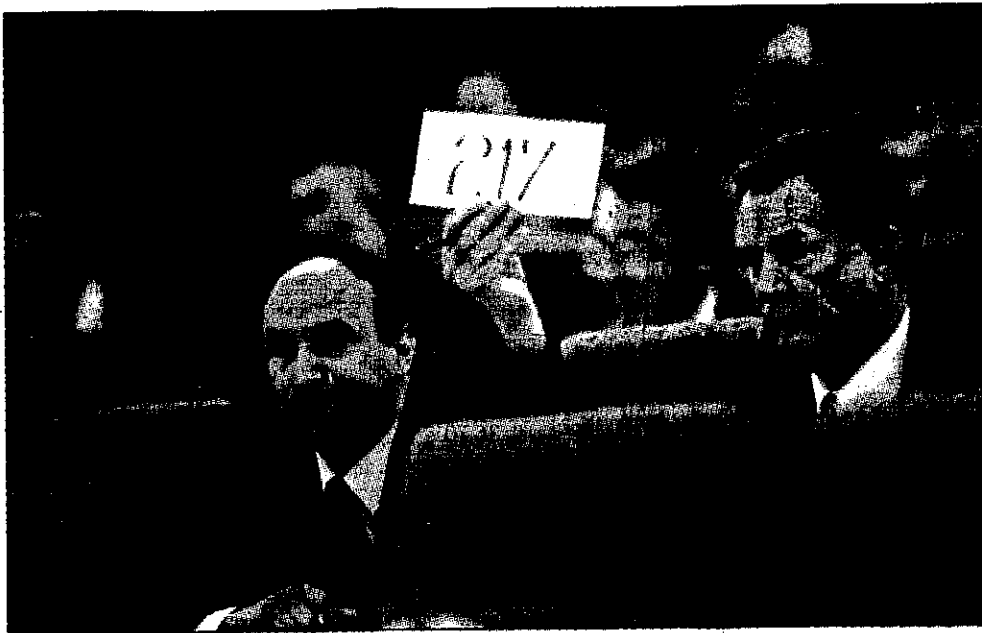
Moloto is an attorney with experience in contract and property law, constitutional matters and the administration of estates.

**Embassies
'represent**

This announcement appears

NOTE 27

27/7/95



LOW PROSPECTS Interest in mineral rights being sold by SA Lands came from farmers, not miners

PHOTO JOHN WOODROOF

Mineral rights sale attracts mostly farmers

By DEREK TOMMEY

MINING EDITOR

The sale of 82 757ha of unwanted mineral rights by SA Lands in Johannesburg yesterday attracted more farmers than prospectors. The withdrawal from the auction of mineral rights surrounding the old SA Lands mine, believed to have potential should the gold price increase, helped to make it a non-event.

Most of the buyers merely wanted to recover the mineral rights to their properties, sold to

SA Lands during various mineral exploration searches in the 1920s.

The sales left them at a disadvantage as a land owner may not do anything on the land, including building structures or changing the use of the land, without first obtaining the mineral right holder's consent.

The mineral rights holder can also enter the land, search for and mine minerals at any time.

Most of the properties attracted only one bid. A Delareyville farmer bought back the 5 214ha

of mineral rights to his property for 50c a hectare. He said he was satisfied with the price.

The rights were sold to SA Lands in 1923 for 1d (a penny) a morgen.

The highest bid received was R20 a hectare for 3 786ha in the Warmbaths area.

A few properties were sold at R4, R5 and R6 a hectare but eventually bids of 50c a hectare were accepted by the auctioneer, John Chase, which gave speculators a chance to pick up rights reasonably cheaply.

CT(RR) 28/7/95 (3) (EPD)

AGRICULTURE
Screen test

(3)
FM 28/9/95

SA's largest grain co-op — Sentraalwes — is scheduled to hold its first computerised grain sale early next month on the Agri Marketing Exchange (Amex) electronic auction system.

While other large grain co-operatives, such as Bethal-based OTK, are still cautious about "going electronic," the demise of the Maize Board's price-forming role as from May 1 has left the market open for a formalised auction system.

Amex MD Ian Dixon says he is registering big local maize buyers — Tiger Oats, Premier Group, Genfood and Tongaat — for future, fortnightly maize auction sales. "We'll probably sell both white and yellow maize in lots of 100 t, while grain, sorghum and oilseeds should also feature."

Launched last October by Vleissentraal, Amex has been fully operational since January. The system is already used in the R10m a year red meat market, where the first electronic feeder cattle auction took place on May 8.

"Since our first sale, electronic feeder cattle auctions have taken place every Monday, and we now have 73 feedlots registered as buyers. Farmers, as sellers, do not register, as they sell through agents," says Dixon, who sees a growing role for Amex's spot market price-forming role in SA's agricultural commodities market.

Amex charges a 0,5% commission on the gross value of all sales transacted through its system.

With the ongoing demise of the various fixed-price, single channel agricultural marketing systems and the launch of the SA Futures Exchanges (Safex)'s agricultural marketing division on July 31, the timing of the Amex launch seems spot-on.

Futures markets need operating spot markets as statistical bases to develop futures and forward contracts.

Safex agricultural marketing division GM John Wixley says: "The sooner a proper spot market develops for grains, the sooner we can also evolve beyond forward contracts into futures." ■

On the spot ... Professor Philipp Tobias, Simon Bekow
deposits at Sterkfontein where Clarke discovered 3,5-million-

30% water curb 'vital' ~~3~~

BY CHERYL HUNTER
CITY REPORTER

Residents of the Greater Johannesburg area will have to curb their water consumption by at least 30% or face harsh punitive tariffs, the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council decided yesterday.

Chairman of the TMC's Engineering Services Committee Yakob Makda said yesterday water restrictions had to be imposed as the public had not responded to repeated requests to save water. "Last month there was a 2% saving on water," he said.

Similar stringent restrictions in Pietersburg indicate the reality of the situation: each house is allowed 30kl and is fined R5/kl for extra consumption up to 40kl. Thereafter, the tariff is R40 for every additional kilolitre consumed.

Johannesburg's last dry period lasted five years — and Makda said there was a real possibility the city would

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Star 28/7/95

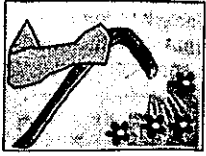
out of fuel

WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND

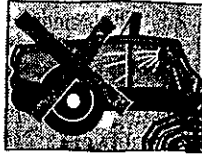
Nestlé
RICO
Soluble granules
FRESH PERCOLATED TASTE
COFFEE & CHICORY EXTRACT
WARM WITNESS
FOR INSPIRATION

WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND SPECIALS • WEEKEND

MAIN WATER RESTRICTIONS from August 1



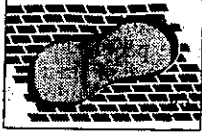
Watering with hoses or irrigation systems on alternate weekdays 5-7 pm



Using hoses to wash vehicles is banned



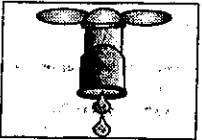
Sprinklers banned



Filling swimming pools prohibited. Topping up allowed



Buckets and watering cans can be used at any time



A leak detection programme recommended

* Households not decreasing their water consumption by at least 30% will face fines.

REPORT LEAKS TO THESE NUMBERS

Administration	Number
ALEXANDRA	882-6200
DIEPMEADOW	933-1073/4/5 (Ext 231) (Manned 07:00 - 17:00)
DOBSONVILLE	988-1011 (Ext 154)/Alt. Rdprt. 672-8142 (24hrs)
ENNERDALE	855-1006 (Ext 268) (Manned 07:00 - 16:00)
JOHANNESBURG	403-2626 (All Hours)
LENASIA S.E.	857-1510/1563/1676
RANDBURG	Office hours 789-0439 /After hours 789-1350/2
ROODEPOORT	672-8142
SANDTON	Office hours 444-1850 /After hours 883-2813
SOWETO	0801 116 264 (Manned 07:00 - 21:00) Answering machine: 21:00 - 07:00

Release from Vaal barrage 30% water curb 'essential'

◀ From Page 1

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER

Large volumes of water are to be released from the Vaal River barrage on Monday as part of water conservation measures, the Department of Water Affairs announced yesterday.

It is expected to result in temporary flooding, and warnings have been issued to house owners of the pending action.

From 8am on Monday, about 10 to 150 cubic metres per second of water will be released. The flow will be decreased to 10 cubic metres at 5pm on Tuesday.

According to the department, it had agreed, after a request from Rand Water, to lower the water level of the barrage for conservation purposes.

The Vaal River Action Committee had also asked for the release to help with the removal of water hyacinth downstream.

have no water by next July unless there was a concerted effort by all to conserve the scarce commodity.

Under the new punitive tariffs from September 1, all households are allowed a minimum of 20kl a month. Above this amount, households are expected to lower their usual consumption by 30% or be charged an extra R3,75/kl used until December 31. From January 1 the additional charge will be R5.

Makda said however that past experience indicated that increased tariffs and awareness campaigns were unlikely to reduce water consumption unless accompanied by restrictions on water usage.

The following restrictions were imposed:

■ Residential gardens may only be watered with hoses on alternate week days between 5 and 7pm. Properties with even street

numbers are allowed to water their gardens on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and those with uneven numbers on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

■ No sprinklers may be used at any time for any irrigation.

■ Gardens may be watered with buckets and watering cans at all times.

■ Race courses, sports grounds and golf courses may be watered between 9am and noon on Mondays and Thursdays until summer when the hours will change to 1.30 pm to 4.30pm.

■ The use of water by landscapers, designers and contractors for newly established gardens is permitted between 10am and noon daily for three months after the garden is planted on condition that a permit is issued for each site.

■ Free running taps are not allowed to be operated.

■ All automatic flushing systems (eg urinals) shall be turned off in

buildings when these premises are vacated by most of staff.

■ The use of hoses for washing vehicles is prohibited.

■ Swimming pools shall not be emptied for repairs.

■ All leaking taps and pipes shall be repaired as soon as the problem becomes evident.

■ Water features shall have their water flow reduced during the day and switched off at night.

These restrictions will be enforced by local authorities, but Makda said the public usually policed their neighbours in circumstances like these.

Makda said that punitive tariffs for unmetered consumers would be ineffectual as they were charged a flat rate monthly. In these areas an awareness campaign would be launched and a leak detection programme started to stop water wastage as soon as it was noted.

Industry has been warned to cut its consumption by at least 10% and agriculture by 40%.

(3) Stan 28/7/95

EU relief for SA farmers kept on hold

By DALE LAUTENBACH
FOREIGN EDITOR

The grinding wheels of Europe's bureaucracy and the protectionism of some member states have left South African farmers out in the cold for another couple of months.

In a bitterly worded statement from Brussels yesterday, South African ambassador to the European Union, Neil van Heerden, announced

that tariff relief for South Africa's agricultural products under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) was still on hold.

"It is a great disappointment, in the light of continued expressions of support for the new South Africa, that the European Commission's proposal for improved South African participation in the GSP for agricultural products was not considered before the summer break," said Van Heerden.

In short, the improved tariffs, originally supposed to come into effect in July, will not be implemented until September at the earliest.

Van Heerden blamed not only EU bureaucracy but the "attitude of certain member states" to South Africa.

It is well established that a number of EU members, particularly those with a strong farming lobby, are not keen to see SA products in Europe under favourable terms.

"This sets a negative tone when we are embarking on negotiations to establish a new relationship with the Union," said Van Heerden.

"There are misconceptions concerning the South African agricultural industry which also do not take account of the potential for a constructive partnership between Europe and South African producers," he said.

But even if the ministers had approved the commis-

sion's proposal before heading out of Brussels, the package would still have fallen far short of what Van Heerden would consider fair.

"The commission's proposal entails a selective extension to South Africa of the existing agricultural GSP package which covers only 24% of standard GSP," said Van Heerden, noting that Brazil, Mexico and Argentina were all beneficiaries of non-selective standard packages.

(#) (3) Star 29/7/95

Minister warns on repercussions if land bill is flouted

(3) (28) 1/8/95 S/AV

■ STAFF REPORTER

The full force of the law will be brought against anyone who subverts the land restitution process by illegally occupying land or pretending to "sell" plots to desperate, landless families, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom warned yesterday.

The minister said "unscrupulous people" were taking advantage of the anxieties of families who were entitled to reclaim their land through the Land Restitution Commission.

Fraudulent

Some were encouraging such families to short-circuit the land restitution process by illegally occupying the land in question. Others were fraudulently "selling" land which was subject to land claims.

"This situation is of extreme concern to me, because it not only creates a false sense of ownership among the purchasers of these fraudulent certificates, but also undermines the legitimate process of restitution," Hanekom said.

"Such actions severely prejudice the interests of those communities and individuals who have followed the correct procedures of application and negotiation. They are now subjected to even more uncertainty as to whether they will be successful in their land claims."

Legal action would be taken against anyone who occupied private or state land without authority; who illegally allocated or sold land; or who attempted to intimidate legitimate land claimants or current land owners.

"Anybody with knowledge of such irregularities is requested to report it to the police immediately," said Hanekom.

He said that the ministry understood the impatience of those who had lost their land under the racial land laws enacted from 1913.

"However, a fair process has been set in motion, even though it may take some time. This process is the only way in which the sensitive and difficult issue of restitution can fairly and effectively be dealt with."

Land fraud scheme exposed

A FRAUDULENT land ownership scheme had been exposed under which individuals seeking land restitution were buying false ownership certificates, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday. (2/3)

"It has come to my attention that there are some unscrupulous people who are taking undue advantage of government's restitution programme and are engaged in illegal activities in selling plots of land to prospective claimants," he said. BD 1/8/95

"This situation is of extreme concern to me, because it not only creates a false sense of ownership among the purchasers of these fraudulent certificates, but also undermines the legitimate process of restitution."

Hanekom said he had received reports of individuals encouraging claimants to occupy privately owned land without the permission of the land owner, and without going through the land restitution process.

"We understand the impatience of those who lost their land. However, a fair process has been set in motion, even though it may take some time," he said. — Sapa.

Old racial land rights opposed

~~DP~~ (3)
Sowetan 2/8/95

Apartheid victims 'cannot rely on the new Government for support'

By Vuyo Bavuma
Political Reporter

THE NATIONAL LAND COMMITTEE has called for the scrapping of the property clause in the constitution and for the broadening of restitution of land rights to effectively address the legacy of past racially discriminatory laws.

It said the Government should consider broadening the brief of the Land Claims Commission to deal with claims outside the present property clause and the Restitution Act.

Addressing a workshop on Land and Constitution Mr Brendon Pierce, director of the NLC, said the Government should also establish a specialised body to administer and ensure the attainment of land rights.

The protection of property rights in the interim constitution sent a message to the landless that the Government was more concerned with the rights of the white landowners. This created the impression that apartheid victims could not rely on the new government for

support in achieving what they had been struggling for many years.

Pierce said the government would have to play a more pro-active role to ensure that the most marginalised people were getting a fair deal.

"The property clause is a major impediment to land reform and the process of addressing people's basic human rights. Just last week 600 farm workers were kicked off farms in the Free State for exercising their right to strike," Pierce said. The workers were completely defenceless against powerful farmers whose property rights are protected by the constitution, he said.

But the South African Property Association called for the inclusion of the property clause in the constitution to attract investment and provide security. In a statement the association said private property ownership was the cornerstone of most successful economies in Western societies.

Dr Funiwe Njobe, of the Land and Agriculture Policy Centre, supported the inclusion of the rights of the dispossessed in the Bill of Rights.

Reworked bill on land ready for Cabinet decision

(3) Star 2/8/95

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

As a thoroughly reworked draft of the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill goes before the Cabinet today, stakeholders — including the South African Agricultural Union — will also be considering the new version.

Ministry of Land Affairs officials are hopeful that they have been able to strike an acceptable balance in the revised Bill: up-

holding the right of labour tenants to acquire land while providing safeguards to ensure that farmers are not unreasonably forced into selling it to them.

Representatives of organised agriculture and of organisations assisting labour tenants were closely involved in the redrafting. This came about as a result of a two-day workshop held in Dundee 10 days ago at which Minister of Land Affairs Derek

Hanekom presided.

The new Bill differs from the earlier version in that:

- It defines labour tenants much more carefully, distinguishing them clearly from other farm workers.
- It applies throughout South Africa, not just in certain districts of the Eastern Transvaal and KwaZulu-Natal.
- It provides more flexibility

about how a labour tenant may exercise his or her clearly recognised right to land and to state assistance in acquiring land.

While the original Bill provided that the labour tenant would have a virtually automatic right to acquire part of the farm on which he or she lived or worked, the new version provides for an arbitration process to establish whether an alternative piece of land would be appropriate.

Hanekom rejects property entrenchment

Adrian Hadland ~~BD~~ 2/8/95

CAPE TOWN — Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom yesterday rejected the need for a clause in the new constitution entrenching property rights.

Hanekom told a Constitutional Assembly workshop that adequate protection for property rights would be provided by common law together with a constitutional prohibition on arbitrary, unfair or discriminatory government action.

But SA Chamber of Business spokesman Ken Warren told the workshop it was imperative specific property rights, as contained in the interim constitution, were

retained. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ (3)

A new constitution had to ensure no person or organisation should be deprived of property without due process of law and without just compensation, he said.

The interim constitution says every person has the right to acquire and hold rights in property and no deprivation of property rights is permitted other than in accordance with a law. Property may be expropriated only for "public purposes" and subject to agreed compensation.

Hanekom said the provision had been made because of anxieties regarding confiscation and redistribution of land at the time the interim constitution was framed.

"By now, it should be clear that those fears are groundless," he said.

Nowhere in the world was ownership absolute and unrestricted, Hanekom said. Government should be able to regulate the use of property in a number of ways and this should be reflected in the constitution.

By entrenching the "rights of property" in the interim constitution, potential problems had been created, Hanekom said.

He cited the example of recent litigation concerning establishment of an informal township at Diepsloot in Gauteng.

A constitutional protection of property

Continued on Page 2

Hanekom ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ (3) ~~BD~~ 2/8/95

Continued on Page 2

rights would have allowed landowners to "trump" legislation with the Bill of Rights.

"We should take care that if we have a property clause in the new constitution, it does not give constitutional force to the "nimby" (not in my backyard) argument, and therefore prevent the development of low-cost housing or the provision of land for small-scale farmers."

The new constitution should make clear that expropriation for the purpose of land

reform was permissible given appropriate compensation, Hanekom said.

A balance was required between property rights and the right to land.

"Just as property rights must not be arbitrarily destroyed or confiscated to meet the needs of homeless and landless people, so existing property rights must be limited by the basic needs of homeless or landless people."

Hanekom said the constitution should provide for the restitution of land in broad terms only and not in detail as spelt out in the interim constitution.

Hanekom, business at odds over land rights

ET 2/8/95

3 22

LAND Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom, at odds with business, yesterday opposed the inclusion of a clause in the final constitution to protect property rights.

"Adequate protection would be provided by the common law and the constitutional prohibition on arbitrary, unfair or discriminatory government action," he said.

Mr Hanekom was addressing delegates to a two-day public workshop in the House of Assembly on land rights in the new constitution.

While he did not support a property clause, he said the new constitution should make land reform possible to redress the injustices caused by centuries of white rule.

He dismissed calls by radical groups for the seizure of under-used white land and said the government would respond only to an expressed demand for land.

The SA Chamber of Business (Sacob) called for retention of the



CONTROVERSIAL: Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom

property-protection clause and abolition of the provision for land redistribution.

Sacob's director of legal affairs Mr Ken Warren said the land reform already under way would

be temporary and should be managed under a statute of Parliament that could be repealed once the job was done.

Mr Brendan Pearce of the non-government National Land Committee backed Mr Hanekom, saying redistribution to undo centuries of white domination was essential to lasting peace.

Security

"If land is not distributed and people are not secure on the land they occupy, it will not matter whether property is secured or not," he said.

● The SA Agricultural Union yesterday demanded a judicial inquiry into the issue of labour tenants before legislation in this regard was passed, saying the process leading up to the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill was "one-sided, not transparent and undemocratic".

Cabinet approves Land Bill

3/8/93
powerman

THE controversial Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill was approved by the Cabinet yesterday. Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel said in Pretoria. But it is not being applauded by the rightwing South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

Manuel said yesterday that amendments to the Bill, since it was first discussed by the Cabinet on May 31, included a new definition of a labour tenant and extended application of the Bill to the whole country.

It had previously been focused on the Eastern Transvaal and KwaZulu-Natal.

The SAAU said earlier yesterday it was "totally opposed" to the Bill, which would give some 30 000 labour tenants the right to acquire farmland they had historically used and occupied.

"Should it be approved in its present form, it will not receive the cooperation and support of the SAAU and farmers at ground level," SAAU president Mr Boet Fourie said in a statement in Pretoria.

He urged the Government to set up a judicial inquiry into the matter.

Manuel said there had been "very wide" consultations with the SAAU, provincial agricultural unions and farm workers since May.

"They have collectively brought certain changes to the Bill." — *Sapa*.

Star 3/8/95 (30/15)

Cabinet approves Land Reform Bill

■ BY MONDLI MAKHANYA
POLITICAL REPORTER

The Cabinet yesterday approved the Land Reform Bill, setting the Government of National Unity on a collision course with agricultural unions.

Also approved was the Labour Relations Act, which once divided the partners in the National Economic Development and Labour Council.

Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel said after the Cabinet meeting that the Land Reform Bill had now been amended to cover the whole country, instead of just parts of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Transvaal.

The Bill allows the country's 30 000 labour tenants the right to buy the land they occupy.

It also provides for State subsidies for tenants wishing to buy the land they live on.

The revised draft of the Bill provides farmers with the chance to suggest alternatives for the tenants to acquire land and for the mediation of such negotiations.

"It will promote more effective negotiation between the parties by making specific provision for alternatives to the land currently occupied and used by tenants.

"In the case of a failure to reach agreement, such a matter will be referred to an informal and fast-track arbitration mechanism via the President of the Land Claims Court, said Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said in a statement.

Manuel said the Government had conducted wide consultation with farmers' union and farmworkers' organisations.

However, South African Agricultural Union president Boet Fourie immediately vowed that the farming sector would oppose the Bill in its "present form" and said it "would not receive the support and co-operation of farmers at ground level."

He said the SAAU wanted an urgent meeting with President Mandela and demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter.

Agricultural unions can still make representations to the Portfolio Committee on Land Affairs when the Bill comes before Parliament.

The Labour Relations Bill approved yesterday was agreed to by unions and big business a few weeks ago.

Next week, the Cabinet will make a decision on the outstanding issues of whether "scab labour" should be permitted and whether the SA Police Services should be covered by the legislation.

Labour tenants Bill in sight

Drew Forrest

BO 3/8/95

(300)

A BILL revolutionising the land rights of thousands of labour tenants is to be tabled in Parliament later this month, after Cabinet approved a redrafted version of the legislation yesterday.

Deputy Land Affairs Minister Tobie Meyer said the NP had given its backing to the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill after the original draft had been amended to meet its concerns.

Published for comment on June 2, the Bill provoked angry protests by commercial farmers. Of particular concern was a provision empowering labour tenants to force the sale of farm land they occupy.

The draft legislation was unusual in that it gave tenants protection from pre-emptive eviction from the date of publication.

Meyer said the revised Bill met three major NP concerns:

- It defined labour tenants "less vaguely and widely".
- It removed unconstitutional provisions relating to expropriation.
- It provided for arbitration of disputes between tenant and landowner.

The Bill also now ensured that subdivided land was viable and sustainable.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said 170 written submissions had been re-

Continued on Page 2

Land Bill (300)

Continued from Page 1

BO 3/8/95

ceived on the Bill. The amendments had been agreed to at a on July 21 involving government ministries and departments, the Land Bank, organised agriculture, trade unions and rural lobby groups.

He said the two pillars of the Bill were protective tenancy and the right of long-term occupants to acquire rights in land.

"The aim is to provide a lasting solution to the endemic conflict and human rights abuses in those parts of the country where labour tenancy still exists," he said.

In line with international practice, tenants could only be evicted for breach of contract, misconduct or where the owner had a specific need for the land.

Hanekom stressed only labour tenants occupying land for a substantial period were covered by the legislation. It did not deprive landowners of land they were using, nor did it apply to evicted tenants. By entitling tenants to acquire the land, the Bill would "stabilise and legitimise" the

property relationship.

Hanekom said the Bill enabled landowners to make alternative proposals on the location of the land to be acquired by tenants. The revised version strengthened this by promoting negotiation between the parties. Deadlocks could be referred to "an informal and fast-track arbitration mechanism via the president of the Land Claims Court".

Hanekom also stressed that the revised Bill defined labour tenants more narrowly, distinguishing them from farmworkers, and applied to the whole of SA. The original draft was confined to parts of the Eastern Transvaal and KwaZulu-Natal, where labour tenancy is widespread.

Louise Cook reports the board of the SA Agriculture Union (SAAU) yesterday called for a judicial commission to be appointed to probe the issue of labour tenants and their rights. SAAU president Boet Fourie slammed the proposed Act, saying a judicial commission needed to look at it before it was passed by Parliament.

Police investigate land fraud

Louise Cook

B20 3/8/95

(3)

FRAUDULENT land ownership schemes were being investigated by the police, chief land claims commissioner Joe Seremane said yesterday.

He warned that government's land restitution process was being abused by "unscrupulous people" trying to make money out of it.

Seremane declined to give more details other than saying the scam had recently started up in Gauteng, but land affairs department sources said the fraud was happening mainly in the Northwest province and in KwaZulu-Natal.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said this week false ownership certificates had been sold to individuals seeking land restitution.

"This is of extreme concern to me, because it not only creates a false sense of ownership among the purchasers of these fraudulent certificates, but also undermines the legiti-

mate process of restitution.

"Individuals were being encouraged to occupy privately owned land without the permission of the land owner, and without going through the restitution process. We understand the impatience of those who lost their land. However, a fair process has been set in motion, even though it may take some time."

Seremane said non-governmental organisations should help communities follow proper procedures to claim land back.

"There would be no cost involved and the commission would publish any procedural changes in the Government Gazette."

He refused to name any culprits, saying it would jeopardise the police probe.

The commission was currently processing a total of 4 600 claims. KwaZulu-Natal took the lead with 1 793 claims, followed by Gauteng and the Western Cape.

Some features of the old District Six will be rebuilt — bath houses, fish markets and sport clubs have been named — though it is accepted that the legendary vibrancy of the past cannot just be re-invented.

Even modified success — after so many years of acrimony and racial division — could provide a model for other urban areas that were similarly affected by group areas removals.

Pageview and Cato Manor are examples, though circumstances vary from one city to another, and the creation of what are intended as nonracial enclaves close to central Cape Town would carry a special significance for coloureds. ■

(3) ~~3~~
LAND RESTITUTION

Restoring District Six

FM 4/8/95
The remaking of District Six — a name the Nationalists made notorious through forced removals during the apartheid era — is coming closer. A shattered community, however, can never be fully reconstructed, so it has fallen to the Cape Town Community Land Trust to find ways and means of redressing past evils.

The trust, established last November with a brief to establish affordable housing and community facilities in the inner city, has an inclusive representation on its board and inherits an extremely complex situation.

Trust CEO Basil Davidson, for example, points out that property in District Six, before the wreckers of the Group Areas Act moved in, was largely in the hands of white owners (at least 60%). The 30 000 tenants who were moved out in the Sixties would today have a lineage of 150 000-200 000 people.

Clearly, on moral and financial grounds, restitution is appropriate. But what kind? A major challenge facing the trust is to establish just who the beneficiaries of new inner-city housing and business premises should be.

This process is under way. Restitution, in other words, has to be effected through the creation of residential and other facilities not just in the 39 hectares of trust land in District Six but throughout the city where similar projects can be undertaken.

In 1991, following decades of anti-apartheid campaigning, government and the Cape Town City Council agreed to hand over to a trust the land it had expropriated in District Six as well as property that it undertook to repurchase from those private owners to whom it had sold. Only after this acquisition of the privately owned land had taken place could redevelopment be given practical effect.

The Community Land Trust became the vehicle for this process. As part of its work, it has asked the provincial and city authorities to apply to the Land Claims Court for the exclusion of trust land in District Six from restoration to the land claimants — mainly because it was not so much the original owners as the community of tenants that was destroyed.

It would be impossible to develop the land in an integrated way if pieces of it were returned in a haphazard fashion.

Throughout the rest of this year, a planning forum, operating under the trust's mandate, will consider plans for the new District Six.

Assuming that matters proceed smoothly, the outcome could be the creation of residential and other opportunities for historically disadvantaged communities.

Land court is to go on circuit

(3) Louise Cook

BD 4/8/95

THE new Land Claims Court, which was widely expected to be based in Randburg, would operate as a circuit court, newly appointed court president Fikile Bam said yesterday.

He said although Johannesburg was the preferred seat, the court was considering renting premises in Randburg. No details were given.

The court would be run by Bam and four judges. One, a woman, still had to be appointed.

"The biggest challenge the court will face probably will be having to operate in the face of uncertainty about available land suitable for development and finance. We are expecting a lot of cases, but we just do not know."

The court's brief had been extended to deal with labour tenant cases as well as restitution claims.

"But with the vigorous use of mediation, the number of cases would be limited to those where guidance was needed and issues were not clear."

Bam predicted that most cases would be settled by the Restitution of Land Claims Commission, before they came to court.

"Mediation should have been used more extensively during the apartheid era to settle disputes," he said.

"The whole process of first going to court and settling afterwards was the wrong way around."

In terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, land claims would first go to the Restitution of Land Rights Commission. If the dispute was not settled, the case would be referred to the court.

But the court too would try to get the parties to settle.

Land use laws 'should be changed'

CAPE TOWN — Land use laws should be changed to force local authorities to take environmental concerns more seriously, the Steyn inquiry into the Saldanha steel project was told yesterday.

Present legislation was too vague, Western Cape's planning directorate Vic Theunissen said. New planning legislation should also ensure broader public participation in planning land use.

The ordinance's requirements for local authority land use structure plans were vaguely worded and paid too little attention to environmental concerns.

As a result, some environmental impact assessments were only a few

paragraphs long, while others were pages thick. Structure plans themselves often varied, depending on who produced them and what brief they received from the local authority.

With no set standards, it was possible that two firms of town planners working separately could produce structure plans for the same area which "differed considerably".

The ordinance also gave local authorities too much discretion in how it could advertise rezoning applications.

"I suggest clear regulations should be drawn up to promote awareness of issues (raised in land use plans) more explicitly."

Earlier, environmental

lawyer and former law professor at Chicago University Prof Denis Cowen told the inquiry land use guidelines drawn up in 1975 for Saldanha ignored SA's obligations to the Ramsar International Wetland Treaty it had signed two years earlier.

The site had again been ignored in the Saldanha structure plan completed in 1992. "The perception might be created that SA is not taking its international obligations seriously."

However, board of inquiry member Rufus Maruma pointed out that the Ramsar conference decision, known as the precautionary principle, had been interpreted differently by the signatories. — Sapa.

3 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) BO 4/8/95

'Land use laws open to abuse'

MELANIE GOSLING
STAFF REPORTER

SOUTH AFRICA's land use laws were attacked at the Steyn inquiry into the Saldanha steel project yesterday for being vague and leaving too many decisions in the hands of local authorities who had an interest in increasing their tax bases.

Former provincial deputy chief planner Mr Vic Theunissen said in evidence yesterday that the Saldanha-Vredenburg local authority would have had complete jurisdiction to give the go-ahead for the Saldanha steel project had there been no objection to the proposed rezoning.

Once there was an objection, the matter had been referred to the provincial authorities.

Regarding land use plans, Mr Theunissen said there were no clear specifications in the Land Use Planning Ordinance for what environmental input was required when drawing them up.

"The rigour of the plan

depends very much on who did it and whether it is good or bad. Integrated environmental management is left to the discretion of the planning professional and is not embodied in law," Mr Theunissen said.

He said much of the procedure for drawing up land use plans — particularly regarding advertising and public participation — was left in the hands of local authorities.

CT 4/8/95
Tax base

Inquiry chairman Mr Justice Jan Steyn expressed concern about legislation that "casts everything in concrete" as this would mean business could not function properly.

But he said local authorities had a motive to approve projects that increased their tax base.

Land-use planner Mr Mark Callaghan said that the Saldanha-Vredenburg land use plan had not been drawn up in an environmentally integrated manner.

New Great Trek for SA farmers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: A new Great Trek by South African farmers starts on Monday when 20 families — the first of at least 300 — fly to the Congo to begin a new life.

Their departure marks the third major migration by white farmers from SA in the last 90 years. The first was to Patagonia, in Argentina, and the second to Kenya in the 1930s.

Arranged by the Pretoria-based South African Development Corporation (SADC) in association with the Congo government, the farmers are to settle in the Niare valley between the Atlantic seaport

CT 4/8/95 (3)

of Pointe Noire and the Congo capital, Brazzaville.

A second group of farmers is due to settle soon in Zaire and Mozambique as part of the Africa Project, an independent organisation established by the Transvaal and Free State agricultural unions and General Constand Viljoen, leader of the Freedom Front.

Each farmer has secured a 99-year lease on his property from the Congo government.

The South Africans are initially to grow fruit, but it is hoped they will eventually introduce a range of crops to the valley. Exports of bananas, litchis, mangoes, avocados, coffee and cocoa are planned.

Hanekom pledges new land policy

(3) ~~2~~

Sowetan 5/8/95

Kempton Park conference may result in a White Paper on reform

THE Land Affairs Ministry is developing a comprehensive land reform policy and some of its mechanisms have already been implemented and tested, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said on Friday.

Interviewed by *Sapa* in Pretoria about the August 31 national land policy conference at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park, Hanekom said the ministry had adopted what could be described as a "partly piecemeal approach" - implementing new but reviewable policies to deliver land reform progress at the grassroots while a holistic policy was still being formulated.

"We do not want to wait until we have all our policies in place... Policy is not regarded as static. We are working with people, grappling with problems," he said.

The ministry had already acted on its constitutional requirements such as land restitution under the new Restitution of Land Rights Act and had tested potential tools for delivering land reform in the provincial land pilot schemes. Hanekom said: "We felt we were ready to put something on the table. We are not rushing to draft a policy. We felt a need for a comprehensive policy."

The conference will be based on reports from ten ministerial technical teams on land restitution, redistribution, tenure reform and land development.

Discussions will be written into a document which Hanekom said would

be regarded as a Green Paper or even White Paper. But consultations would continue, he said. So far the ministry's approach of involving interested parties - from landless communities to the agricultural unions - has paid off.

Referring to periodic criticism that no land reform has been implemented, Hanekom said: "Political criticism does not bother me; it would if I felt we could and should do more."

"I would be worrying if nothing happens over the next six months now the Land Commission and Land Claims Court are set up. I would worry if the land pilots do not produce anything in the next three months." - *Sapa*.

300 families to seek a new life growing fruit

■ Twenty farming families will fly to the Congo on Monday, the vanguard of at least 300 families planning to grow fruit in the Niare valley.

(3) ARL 5/8/95

NORMAN CHANDLER

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — A new Great Trek by South African farmers starts on Monday when 20 families — the first of at least 300 — fly to the Congo to begin a new life.

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Arranged by the Pretoria-based South African Development Corporation (SADC) in association with the Congo government, the farmers are to settle in the Niare valley between the Atlantic seaport of Pointe Noire and the Congo capital, Brazzaville.

A second group of farmers is also due to settle in Zaire and Mozambique as part of the Africa Project, an independent organisation established by the Transvaal and Free State provincial agricultural unions and General Constand Viljoen, leader of the Freedom Front.

The SADC farmers are to collect containers of their household goods, furniture, farm implements, tools, tractors and bakkies at Pointe Noire on Monday and Tuesday.

The farmers — the vanguard of at least 300 families who applied to settle in the Congo — are to live in temporary houses built by the Congolese government in the valley, close to the town of Dolisie. They will later move into their own homes.

Each farmer has secured a 99-year

lease on their properties from the Congo government. The properties are in the 800 000-hectare Niare valley, where once-prosperous farms were abandoned in the '60s by French colonialists with the advent of black rule.

The valley is on the railway between Brazzaville and Pointe Noire.

The South Africans are to initially grow fruit, but eventually it is hoped they will introduce a range of crops to the valley. It is planned to export bananas, litchis, mangoes, avocados, coffee and cacao to Europe.

The trek has been carefully worked out over many months in talks between Congolese officials, South African diplomats and the SADC.

South Africa has maintained close ties with the Congo since a key round of the Angolan peace talks took place in Brazzaville in 1988.

Four years later, in February 1992, Congo businessmen visited South Africa at the invitation of the SA Foreign Trade Organisation to discuss potential trade links. Later the same year, the deputy foreign minister led a government delegation to Brazzaville, which resulted in an inter-governmental working group to identify viable areas of co-operation to stimulate private sector investment.

These talks resulted in diplomatic relations being entered into on March 23, 1993. Congo has an embassy in Pretoria while the South African ambassador to Zaire, Jan van Deventer, is accredited to Brazzaville.

Great Congo Fruit

Trek!

Ambitious scheme to divert rivers

Free State aiming for Lesotho water

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

The Free State provincial government is seeking the diversion of 1% of water from the R16-billion Lesotho Highlands water scheme (LHWP) for water supply, sanitation and irrigation in the province.

The LHWP project is due to start supplying the Vaal Dam and, ultimately, Gauteng, in 1997. The scheme, financed by international organisations including the United Nations, is scheduled for completion in the year 2020.

Sewerage

Free State finance MEC Tate Makagoe says the water would be utilised for various projects in this province.

"One of the most important projects we have is that of establishing a sewerage system to help disadvantaged communities in these areas. Another is that we want to use the water to improve the life of the people and therefore ensure that productivity is also boosted."

Makagoe's plans fall in line with the Free State's economic development plan, to be released "in rough form" in Welkom by Premier Patrick Lekota. The plan calls for R2-billion worth of investment and jobs for 130 000 by the end of next year.

But there are expected to be major problems with the diversion of water from the Lesotho

Highlands scheme. Engineers have already said that insufficient water will be available from Lesotho supply sources to sustain the Gauteng industrial and residential complex — in which 40% of South Africa's population live and work — and that new sources will have to be found.

The Limpopo and Zambezi rivers and possibly the Okavango in Botswana are expected to be tapped to sustain development in Gauteng.

Willie Croucamp of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, said in Pretoria that while diversion was laudable, it could result in huge financial costs.

"We are, however, looking into possible further developments of water resources to supply the demands of Gauteng.

"It is a case of selecting between phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and alternative schemes, one of which could be the diversion of water from the Orange River back to the upper tributaries of the Vaal River."

This would mean a long water supply line — about 400km through the Free State — from the Orange to the Vaal, and Croucamp said it could mean a Government decision to siphon off the amount needed to take care of RDP needs.

Croucamp added: "Our Minister (of Water Affairs and Forestry), Professor Kader Asmal, has said time and again that if there

is to be a transfer of water from one point to another, it would have to be for primary usage," he added.

When taking office last year, Asmal set as his priority the provision of a "clean, safe and accessible" water supply to every South African within three years, in keeping with the objectives of the RDP.

The immediate objective was the establishment of a national water and sanitation programme which, Asmal said, would assist all households to secure a clean, safe supply of 20 litres to 30 litres per person a day within a 200m reach.

In order to assist with this, he established a directorate of community water supply and sanitation within the department.

Dams

The LHWP is one of the most ambitious projects tackled anywhere in the world. Phase 1A is for a tunnel system through which water would begin to flow next year to the Gauteng area.

The phase includes the construction of the Katse and Muela dams, as well as a 60km tunnel system.

Phase 1B includes construction of the Mohale dam and Matsoku Diversion, to be completed by 2003. The Mohale scheme alone costs R860-million.

The complete project will have five dams, 200km of tunnels, and deliver 70 cubic metres of water a second to Gauteng.

Education and Culture Service (Ex Administration: House of Assembly)	9	0
Education and Culture Service (Ex Administration: House of Delegates)	1	0
Education and Culture Service (Ex Administration: House of Representatives)	46	103
TOTAL	1 721	6 328

¹⁾ Departments/provincial administrations reported on the filing of 10 291 posts. As indicated in the above Schedule 1 721 posts have already been filled and 6 328 posts are still to be filled. Due to the rationalisation of the Public Service—

* 1 241 posts, which also still need to be filled, are currently in the process of being reallocated to other departments/provincial administrations than originally intended and could not be included in the Schedule; and

* 1 001 of the originally advertised posts have been abolished.

²⁾ The relevant information is classified and has not been made available.

Abolition of import tariffs on agricultural products

181. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

Whether, pursuant to the agreement reached at a conference in Cairns, Australia, it is the Government's intention to abolish import tariffs on agricultural products; if not, why not; if so, (a) from what date and (b) on what basis?

N383E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

The so-called Cairns Group was formed in 1986 to counter opposition to the inclusion of agricultural products in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral trade negotiations. The Group comprises of fourteen countries, namely Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Hungary, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and Uruguay.

South Africa is not a member of the Cairns Group and any agreement reached by the Group could therefore not be binding on South Africa.

However, South Africa has formally been invited to attend, as an observer, a Ministerial Meeting of the Cairns Group which took place in Manila on 26 and 27 May 1995. South Africa

Hansard 8/8/95

was represented at that occasion by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, accompanied by an official from the Department of Trade and Industry and one from the Department of Agriculture.

The primary objective of the Cairns Group is to ensure the full and prompt implementation of the Uruguay commitments in order to improve market access for their agricultural products in the USA, the European Union and Japan. Serious consideration will have to be given by the GNU, in consultation with all stakeholders, regarding South Africa's endorsement of the objectives of the Cairns Group.

With regard to agricultural imports into South Africa we have already in terms of our accession to the Marrakesh Agreement, which incorporates the World Trade Organisation (WTO), committed ourselves to a gradual lowering of import tariffs on agricultural products. Our obligations in this regard will come into effect on 1 July 1995. The basis on which this will be implemented will be in accordance with our GATT offer.

Amount expended on Project Anchor

242. Mr L T LANDERS asked the Minister of Defence:

With reference to his reply to Question No 21 on 15 March 1995, what amount was expended on Project Anchor in each financial year since the commencement of the project?

N495E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

In my oral reply to Question No 82 on 3 May 1995 I indicated that the former SADF funded mobilisation projects in Namibia prior to independence and in South Africa through a closed corporation called Adult Education Consultants CC, better known as AD ED.

Both projects ran simultaneously prior to Namibia's independence and were both funded from one central fund. Although different code names were used for the two projects and associated subprojects they were administered as one project with the support for the initiatives of the former South African Government, being the common denominator.

Upon the cessation of the project in Namibia, equipment that could be economically recovered as well as personnel involved returned to South Africa to the regional offices of AD ED.

I have been advised by the National Defence Force that due to the projects being administered as one major mobilisation project, the interchange of equipment and personnel amongst Namibia and South Africa as well as the regional offices, coupled to the fact that AD ED also generated and used private funds/earnings gained through private contracts, the National Defence Force cannot now accurately provide the hon member with a breakdown of expenditures down to subproject level.

At best the National Defence Force can provide the total amounts expended on the mobilisation projects as I did in my written reply to Question No 145 on 5 May 1995 and which was widely reported on in the mass media.

Social allowances: losses

286. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:

(1) Whether his Department sustained any losses in regard to social allowances as a result of (a) embezzlement, (b) hold-ups and (c) any other specified reasons during the latest specified period of three years for which information is available; if so, (i)

what was the extent of the losses and (ii)(aa) how and (bb) where were these losses sustained, in each case;

(2) whether he or his Department has taken any steps with a view to preventing further losses in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

N577E

The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

EASTERN CAPE:

(1) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(i) R2 774 946.

(ii) (aa) Two pension officers were assaulted by armed robbers who demanded the strongroom keys whereafter they were locked into the boot of their car. The assault took place at the Mdantsane magistrate office. R382 000 was taken.

A pension payout team was robbed at gun point in Peelton, Ciskei. R216 000 was taken.

Social grants to the value of R94 000 were stolen from the strongroom of the social worker's office at Middledrift, Ciskei. Nobody has been arrested.

Social grants to the value of R123 000 were stolen from a strongroom in Seymour, Ciskei. The key was held by the justice clerk. Nobody has been arrested.

A total of R1,2 million was stolen in the Maluti district, Transkei. The steel box containing this money was stolen from the police station strongroom. Nobody has been arrested.

Mandela orders land deals investigation

David Greybe (3) ~~12~~
BD 8/8/95

CAPE TOWN — President Nelson Mandela announced yesterday the establishment of a probe to overturn illegal land deals worth "hundreds of millions of rands" during SA's transition.

He said the inquiry would investigate "alarming allegations" of corruption and irregularities in the disposal of state land, particularly in former homelands, between 1992 and end-1994.

Geoff Budlender, adviser to Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Legal Resources Centre director, was appointed chairman and only member of the inquiry. He will be assisted by five investigating

officials. Mandela invited "any person" to submit allegations.

Land affairs department chief planner Fred Kayser said the exact terms of reference were expected to be published on Friday. Mandela said the commission would cover the allocation, leasing, alienation and transfer of state land.

Eastern Cape land MEC Ezra Sigwela, who Budlender said had raised the issue of illegal land deals, said the value of illegal transactions in his province "runs into hundreds of millions of rands".

Budlender said more than 200 000ha of state land in Transkei and Ciskei were leased or sold under questionable circumstances in the last days of apartheid rule.

Encroaching deserts destroy ecosystems

(3) 170 8/8/95

HARARE — Southern Africa, stricken by successive droughts, deforestation and overgrazing, is scrambling for solutions to save the region's population from the ravages of desertification.

More than 30% of the land in the Southern African Development Community countries — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, SA, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — is semi-arid.

According to Rodger Mpande of the Harare-based Community Technology Development Association, desertification is severe in the Kalahari and Namib regions which extend across parts of Angola, Botswana, SA, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In those areas, says Mpande, annual rainfall has sunk to an average 400mm. With overgrazing, soil erosion has become common, leading to food shortages, livestock deaths, and land destruction.

The rise in population has also aggravated desertification. Although rural populations have remained at about 75% of total population, the increase in real terms is tremendous, says Sam Chimbuya, technical adviser to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

In certain Zimbabwe areas there are 20 to 30 families a square kilometre, resulting

in ecosystems being unable to sustain the pressure of both livestock and human settlement. Furthermore, in Zimbabwe and other countries where economic adjustment programmes have created a burgeoning unemployment problem, there is a drift back to the land as the jobless try to eke out a living.

"The increasing numbers mean a reduction in cropland per unit household," says Chimbuya. "The same land is ploughed over and over, and therefore there is a reduction in productivity and fertility. With time, the land will not be able to produce anything."

With human-induced land degradation now staring southern Africa in the face, concerted action is being taken to implement the 1994 Convention to Combat Desertification, a result of the Rio de Janeiro United Nations Earth Summit which was held in 1992.

Ratification and enforcement of the convention is expected only in 1997, but the situation in Africa is so serious a resolution entitled "Urgent action for Africa", outlining the need for immediate remedies, has been adopted. Initially each African country is expected to come up with a national plan of action.

African nations want fresh donor funds

to fight desertification. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries on the other hand claim there is enough money already available, which needs to be better used.

"There has been tremendous effort at the international level to discredit the issue of desertification," says Mpande.

"Some people argue it's a myth created to draw money from donors and people are being accused of coining a problem that doesn't exist," he says.

Barbara Tutani, regional director of the National Council of Negro Women, stresses rapid action is needed on funding to address desertification now.

In 1991, the UN estimated the global costs of preventative, corrective and rehabilitative anti-desertification measures at between \$10bn and \$22,4bn a year. Land degradation, however, costs the world an estimated \$42,3bn annually, including \$9,3bn in Africa alone.

Two-thirds of Africa is arid or semi-arid, 32% of the world's total. Of the total farmed dry land, 73% is affected by land degradation, a percentage point behind North America.

Desertification does not just mean encroaching sand dunes swallowing up fertile land. It is primarily a socio-economic

process in which natural resources are degraded through unsustainable land use practices and population pressures.

Apart from a decline in food productivity, desertification also describes the potential loss of plant, animal and human diversity.

In Africa, soil degradation is a product of under-development. Dependency on cash-crops whose value is falling on international markets forces farmers to overwork the land.

Monoculture, inherited from colonial economies, is more susceptible to pest and diseases and therefore requires more fertilisers and pesticides. This eventually exhausts the land, damages water sources and forces farmers into marginal areas.

As a complex web of factors, desertification is hard to combat. With a combination of money and technical skill, Israel has proved that it is possible.

In one successful experiment used in Namibia, cattle are gathered in an enclosed area and are kept moving. The thud of hooves and the cattles' urine encourages grass growth.

Other initiatives like replacing firewood with bio-gas and planting drought-resistant crop varieties are now also being implemented. — Sapa-IPS.

Lawyer heads land inquiry

~~221~~ 3
JOHANNESBURG: President Nelson Mandela has named human rights lawyer Mr Geoff Budlender to head a commission of inquiry on the administration of state land. CT 8/8/95

The Department of Land Affairs said yesterday that Mr Budlender would investigate alleged malpractices in the allocation, leasing, alienation and transfer of state land.

Mr Budlender is national director of the Legal Resources Centre and an adviser to Minister of Land Affairs Mr Derek Hanekom. — Special Correspondent

Farmers trek to Mozambique

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

A second party of SA farmers is to trek to new homes in Africa within the next few weeks.

They will be going to Mozambique, following in the pioneering footsteps of 20 farmers who left the country on Monday for the Congo.

An agreement is to be signed in mid-August between the SA and Mozambican governments on resettling farmers in that country, according to Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer.

Some Mozambican opposition figures have attacked the programme, claiming it could be a "new form of colonialism". Members of the ruling Frelimo party have also cautioned President Joachim Chissano's government to safeguard the interests of local people. The SA farmers have promised to bring expertise and technology that could dramatically improve crop yields, lessen-

ing Mozambique's dependence on foreign food aid.

Many South Africans have already started to buy property and build homes in former tourist areas such as Xai-Xai and Delagoa Bay.

The Transvaal and Free State agricultural unions last year initiated the Africa Project, which has the consent of the Government.

The project also makes provision for farmers to be settled in countries such as Zaire, Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania.

Land of hope

"The Afrikaner is a pioneer and we will never stop searching for the best way of life for our children," a Congo-bound farmer told staff reporter Adam Cooke on departure on Monday from Johannesburg International Airport for Naire Valley, east of Pointe Noire, on the Congo coast.

The party, led by Philip Nel, was accompanied by the Congolese ambassador to Pretoria, Dieudonne Manu Ma-

houngou. A second group leaves on Friday.

"In the western Transvaal all we had was cold, dry wind. Now we'll have to learn to swim," joked farmer Flip Meyer.

Clad in thick leather boots and colourful jerseys covering khaki outfits, the group said this was the end of a long process of negotiation and the start of a new life.

"We're tired of farming in soil with no future. We are moving to a land of hope, where we can make a living and use our skills to develop the country," said Johan van der Westhuizen, spokesman for the organisers, the South African Development Corporation.

By the end of the year, 120 families are expected to be settled.

Mahoungou said just 2% of Congo's potentially arable land was developed.

"The initiative and skills of these farmers will become an indispensable part of the Congo people," he said.

More SA farmers head for Africa

The Argus Correspondent

(3) ARLT 9/8/95
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An agreement is to be signed in mid-August between the South African and Mozambican governments on resettling farmers in that country, according to Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer.

They could begin going by next month "to start farming activities as most sub-Saharan countries are in dire need of sufficient food".

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LAND REFORM (3) (24)
 FM 11/8/95
Much good sense

When the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill was released for comment on June 2, there was a rush to an adverse judgment. Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom was accused — by Graham McIntosh, a former PFP MP who farms in Natal — of wishing to push through a socialist plan that would leave SA “trapped in a medieval subsistence economy.”

McIntosh cited three major elements of the Bill, as released, in support of this view:

□ Those who would be most affected by it — farmers with labour tenants — had not been consulted, making a mockery of transparency;

□ The deadline for comment, July 14, was “brutally short;” and

□ The Bill would have the effect of freezing dismissals of labour tenants — who stood to be the prime beneficiaries of land redistribution — from June 2, which McIntosh charged was unconstitutional and undermined the authority of other departments such as Labour.

But 170 written submissions were received by July 14, Hanekom consulted widely on its contents and the outcome, passed by Cabinet last week for consideration by parliament, represents a synthesis of good sense and pragmatism.

Hanekom has admitted that transparency was skirted until June but this was in the face of what he told the Constitutional Assembly was “the serious and very real danger of an escalation in pre-emptive evictions.” In an explanatory memorandum released last Wednesday, he said the non-eviction clause had been honed so that “the process of eviction is circumscribed and has to follow particular procedures. An additional feature is that the owner must pay evicted tenants compensation for the houses they have built on the land, as well as for unreaped crops.”

Labour tenants — estimated at 40 000, plus their families — are defined by Hanekom as those who “have lived on and used farmland for two generations or more, in return for providing labour to the owners.” The Bill — with the supporting Interim Protection of Informal Rights Bill — is designed to enable them to gain rights on the land, including the right to acquire it with State assistance.

The tangled history of land occupation and hunger forms the backdrop to the Bill. It is seen as extending the right of free occupation to those labour tenants who, but for apartheid, might well be land-owners today. Nor is it a direct mechanism of restitution: “The aim of the Bill,” says Hanekom, “is to provide a lasting solution to the endemic conflict and human rights abuses in those

parts of the country where the system of labour tenancy still exists . . . It does not cover labour tenants who have been evicted and who may have claims under the Restitution of Land Rights Act.”

Speaking to the Constitutional Assembly, Hanekom made a comment that could, in isolation, be controversial: “I can understand that as the prospect of a new government came closer, some people became anxious and feared a policy of redistribution through confiscation. That was one of the reasons for the entrenchment of existing property rights. By now, it should be clear that those fears are groundless. Personally, I do not see the need for a property clause in the constitution.”

However, this was not a call for the abolition of the right to own property — rather, a plea that “it must be formulated in such a way which does not constitutionally entrench the results of generations of apartheid and dispossession.” Unless our system of property rights makes it possible for all people to have access to the land they need, the system will be inherently unstable.

The difficulty, he pointed out, was to find a way of formulating a right to land which would be effective while also not making an empty promise which the government is not able to fulfil.

The Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill is an attempt to find a workable formulation for labour tenants and the farmers whose land they occupy. New clauses relating to procedures and mediation have been written in, after an extensive consultation process. The land in question is that which is lived on by the labour tenants; wholesale appropriations are not proposed.

Nevertheless, does all this not imply a limitation of the existing property clause in the interim constitution? Hanekom quotes an American professor, Peter Dornier, as his guiding spirit: “It has been said that private property is a right ordained by natural law and that any attack on it is an attack on society and its most basic unit, the family. Private property, it is said, is the pillar of a civilised society. If these premises are accepted, then it must likewise be admitted that property cannot perform these laudable functions if most people are without it.”

Hanekom’s Bill is a serious attempt to broaden the right to acquire property for a previously marginalised group. It establishes legal ways and means that should defuse conflict over the issue.

Farmers to challenge marketing draft Bill

Louise Cook

(3) NO 11/8/75

THE Organisation of Livestock Producers, backed by the Freemarket Foundation, would challenge the draft Bill on the marketing of agricultural products in the Constitutional Court.

The draft Bill, expected to go before Parliament in November, had been approved by Cabinet last month following intense public debate and resistance from various quarters, including the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Citrus Growers' Association.

The draft Bill stopped short of allowing farmers to sell and export to whom they pleased, but went some way towards freeing agricultural markets regulated by the restrictive Agricultural Marketing Act for the past 50 years.

Organisation of Livestock Producers executive director Nills Dittmer said the body would "in all likelihood take legal action — it would also be a test of the validity of the constitution".

Freemarket Foundation executive director Leon Louw said his organisation would back the action.

"Having ensured that free market principles were built into the constitution, the

foundation will protect these principles and make sure the constitution is not meaningless."

The foundation fought any oppressive and restrictive laws on behalf of anyone excluded from competing as well as on behalf of consumer victims of restrictive laws, Louw said.

A report on the draft Bill by Potchefstroom constitutional expert Adv Fanie Jacobs slammed a section of the draft Bill for being "a piece of Stalinist legislation".

It said the proposed law was unconstitutional and could be challenged in court with reasonable success. The report said various fundamental rights had been violated, including freedom of association, access to information, unrestricted economic activity and equality.

"The situation that representation on these structures (statutory marketing authorities that would replace marketing boards) would be at the sole discretion of the Minister, is not only totally unacceptable but also unconstitutional."

The draft Bill was currently being "prepared for Parliament" by the agriculture department's legal team and was likely to be submitted not later than November sources said.

Controversial bills on land go to parliament

(3/18)

ARG 11/8/95

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

CONTROVERSIAL steps towards land reform are scheduled for the sitting of parliament beginning next week.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom hopes that by mid-September a range of laws will have been passed to expand land tenure rights.

The Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill is a holding measure to protect existing rights of people who have informal rights to land.

The bill will protect the present situation while an investigation into land tenure reform is in progress.

The investigation is due to be completed by the end of next year.

The bill has run into controversy because of its bar on chiefs selling off tribal land without the consent of the tribe, a move the Inkatha Freedom Party has slammed as an erosion of traditional rights.

The Community Property Associations Bill will provide a legal mechanism for people to hold land collectively.

A ministerial spokesman said this was a system of tenure which many people found the most familiar, but there was at present no legal framework for it.

People had had to resort to trusts, companies and voluntary associations which did not suit their needs.

The new bodies will have to meet standards of non-discrimination, fairness and democracy.

The department of land affairs will set up an office to register associations, help communities and handle complaints of abuse.

The Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act will offer protection for all tenure systems.

This is a significant departure from previous government policy, which was to promote only individual freehold.

The bill also aims to improve individual ownership of land rights in townships and cities.

It will ensure upgrading in country areas and will not destroy tribal or communal land-holding systems.

The Development Facilitation Bill aims to reverse apartheid in urban and regional planning.

A measure already gazetted, the Labour Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill, which has retrospective provisions banning eviction of labour tenants, has had agricultural associations up in arms.

Mr Hanekom's ministry is expected to produce a white paper on land reform by the end of October.

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Open agricultural market faces resistance

The South African Futures Exchange (Safex) has encountered inevitable resistance from people who had been making money in a non-transparent market, John Wixley, the general manager of Safex's agricultural markets division, said in response to criticism made last week.

"The trend towards freer and more transparent commodity mar-

(3) CT(MR) 14/8/95
kets as a result of Gatt and general economic forces is irreversible," Wixley said.

The value of beef, maize and potatoes traded in South Africa compared favourably with the value of shares traded on the JSE.

By providing a formal structure of brokers, Safex enabled larger players to act with anonymity through several brokers as they did

on the JSE. This broke up the big players and provided market access to smaller traders creating a more efficient market.

"Feedlotter, beef retailers, local traders and international commodity traders view the developments in our market as the first breath of fresh air arising out of our commodity markets for a long time," said Wixley. — Llewellyn Jones

COMMITTEES TO CONTROL COMMUNAL PROPERTY

New land law will erode power of chiefs

CONTROL of communal land may in future be held by elected committees which in turn will be accountable to the communities they represent if a new law before Parliament is passed. **BARRY STREEK** reports.

NEW legislation which puts communal property in the hands of elected committees, and which will significantly remove the power of chiefs and traditional leaders over communal land, has been tabled in Parliament.

The Communal Property Associations Bill would create a new juristic person, a committee, which could acquire property on behalf of disadvantaged communities.

A memorandum attached to the bill says it was "designed to provide a relatively simple and

accessible mechanism through which group ownership systems may be recognised".

However, to qualify for these benefits, communal property associations will have to "conform to certain basic public standards of fair process, democratic accountability and equality".

The bill provides that the interim committees of the associations have to be democratically elected and once established they will have to have "fair and inclusive decision-making processes" and equality of membership among

ET 21/11/95 (3) members of the communities.

Their democratic processes will have to ensure that all members of the communities concerned receive adequate notice of meetings, are able to participate in any general meetings, receive copies of minutes and inspect financial statements.

Audited

The committees of the associations will have to be accountable to its members and financial records will have to be audited annually.

The bill also provides for the monitoring and inspection of the communal property associations by the director-general of Land Affairs.

Officials introduced to world of small farmer

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter

A COURSE that introduces government institutions and officials to the world of small farmers has been introduced by the University of the Western Cape-based Land Development Unit (LDU).

Recently the course was completed by 20 participants representing agricultural institutes like the Elsenburg College in Stellenbosch, Onderstepoort near Pretoria, Infruitec, Nietvoorbij and staff of the department of agriculture.

The participants were taken to small farming communities in Namaqualand and Haarlém in the Southern Cape where they encountered a cross-section of farms and farming techniques.

Part of the course entailed going over theory and employing farming techniques learnt in Bangladesh and India.

LDU project co-ordinator Ferdie Engel said most of the country's agricultural institutions were geared to the needs of the big commercial farmers and had little or no understanding of small-scale communal



FARM TALK: Agriculturists from different institutions discuss farming methods and problems with a Namaqualand goat farmer.

or subsistence farming.

"The department has established a small-scale farming unit to look after the needs of small farmers, but they lack the necessary experience to deal with them.

"This course is a hands-on

approach to try to reorientate the officials of the old department, give them the opportunity to find out what is happening and what the problems of small farmers are.

"Before you can provide support or a service, you must

first know what the problems are and understand how the small-scale farmers have over the past decades managed to survive using their simple farming methods."

Mr Engel said people's knowledge of local conditions and of the different plant and animal species were vital components that needed to be recognised when drafting a programme to help them improve their capabilities.

"The LDU has over the years gained extensive expertise in, and knowledge of, grassroots farming and is very happy to fill this existing information gap.

"This course was the first. There will be follow-up sessions, especially on how to implement these newly acquired strategies and how to involve the small farmers in the developing of new programmes."

He said that historically commercial farmers always belonged to agricultural unions and knew how to enlist government support, but this was something very new for both the small farmer and agricultural officials. "They are both on a learning curve and one we hope can only improve the difficult conditions under which these small farmers operate."

(3) ARL 14/8/95

Land reform proposal may grant subsidy to millions of rural poor

Drew Forrest

GOVERNMENT is planning to grant subsidies of up to R15 000 — similar in concept to housing subsidies — to the rural poor and small black entrepreneurs as a centre-piece of its land reform programme.

Land affairs department deputy director-general Sue Lund said yesterday it was difficult to quantify the potential cost of the scheme, in part because the department was "uncomfortable with existing macro projections". But millions of people are likely to be eligible.

Details of the proposed "settlement and land acquisition subsidies" are given in a discussion document to be tabled at the national land conference, due to start on Thursday at the World Trade Centre.

The document says that because of "severe fiscal constraints", all rural households will not immediately receive the full grant. It adds that a decision will have to be taken on whether households should be means-tested for eligibility.

The once-off grants are designed to enable poor people to acquire agricultural or other productive land and to upgrade it by

installing water supplies, sanitation, waste disposal, roads and fencing. Subsidies will be registered on the same database as the national housing subsidy and householders will not be eligible for both.

The document says subsidies will buttress the proposed Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act by enabling labour tenants to acquire land they occupy or supply alternative land for settlement. The subsidies can be used to improve tenure and income security for farm workers in tied housing — a key government concern — through provision of housing and infrastructure.

15/8/75

Farmers would be expected to reach agreements with workers or the state guaranteeing the workers' occupational rights and compensation for improvements when they vacated the property.

The money could also be used by farm workers for off-farm housing and services, in agrivillages or urban areas, and to procure an equity share in a farm or its profits. With the worker's consent, farmers could apply for grants for housing improvements, as long as an amount equal to the subsidy was paid into a special account when the farmworker left the farm.

3/11/75

The document also discloses that a trust is being established with departmental and Land Bank money to facilitate the "leveraging" of rural credit. This would whole-sale credit on soft terms to private retailers, which would on-lend at market rates.

"It is hoped that this type of arrangement will encourage private banks to familiarise themselves with this segment of the market," it says. The department would make "settlement planning grants" to help communities plan the acquisition and development of land, by using professional advisers' services.

15/8/75



Church 'has obligation'

Adrian Hadland

30/15/8/95 (3) (2)

CAPE TOWN — The church had a strong moral obligation to lead the way in addressing SA's land needs, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

In a speech delivered to the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference in Durban, Hanekom said churches, as major land owners, had to ensure land was put to good use and that parishioners became involved in the land reform process.

"There can be no doubt that the strong moral influence of the church could do more than any politician, by encouraging the active participation of parishioners in government programmes which benefit the poor and landless".

Hanekom said while the implementation of land reform was government's responsibility, "the church would do the country an immense kindness by keeping the plight of the poor and landless in the public spotlight".

This could be done by ensuring church land was put to good use and by exhorting members to make available their time, skills, expertise and land for the benefit of fellow South Africans.

In some sectors of SA society, Christianity was still accused of not only having acquiesced but of actively having participated in the subjugation and dehumanisation of SA's people, he said.

The church had a strong moral obligation, therefore, to address SA's land needs by addressing its own past not only as an institution having given its silent consent to past injustices, but also as a large landowner.

NK P

NK P

The audited results of the company's operations for the year ended 30 June as follows:

INCOME STATEMENTS

30 June
1995

'Piecemeal' start to land reform

PRETORIA: The Land Affairs Ministry was developing a comprehensive land reform policy, and some of its mechanisms had already been implemented and tested, Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said on Friday.

Interviewed here about the upcoming national land policy conference in Kempton Park, Mr Hanekom said the ministry had adopted what could be described as a "partly piecemeal approach" — implementing new, but reviewable, policies to deliver land reform progress at the grassroots while a holistic policy was still being formulated.

"We do not want to wait until we have all our policies in place. We are working with people, grappling with problems."

Referring to periodic criticism that no land reform has been implemented, Mr Hanekom said: "Political criticism does not bother me; it would if I felt we could and should do more.

"I would be worrying if nothing happens over the next six months now the Land Commission and Land Claims Court are set up." — Sapa

(3) ~~20~~ CT 15/8/95

Agriculture's earnings set to increase further

ET (BR) 15/8/95

(3)

By MAGGIE ROWLEY

Earnings from agricultural exports, which generated R8,3 billion in foreign exchange for South Africa last year, were set to increase further, said Francois Jansen, an economist at Boland Bank.

In his latest economic review, Jansen pointed out that South Africa was one of only six countries in the world which exported food on a regular basis.

Food exports accounted for about 9 percent of the country's total exports last year.

The increased accessibility of world markets enjoyed by South Africa since the early 1990s and the anticipated scaling down of international import restrictions on agricultural products, if properly managed, were bound to further increase South Africa's total agricultural export earnings, he said.

During the first quarter of this year South Africa's total agricultural production was 93 percent higher

than its low at end of 1992, although the seasonally adjusted growth rate for the first quarter was a negative 12,7 percent.

The agricultural sector was a vital swing factor in the South African economy but during the past year had produced a more steady performance relative to the rest of the economy.

However, Jansen pointed out that the profitability of the agricultural sector was only 55 percent of what it was in the 1970s due to rising input costs, a structural increase of interest rates and pressure on input prices.

"Considering research shows that, on the whole, large farming units continue to be the most profitable, it deserves to be stressed that the redistribution of land to small farmers should be undertaken with great care."

He also warned that farmers would, in future, have to exercise caution before deciding to take up foreign capital particularly in view

of the fact that market-related interest rates were in store for the commercial agricultural sector. Farmers would also have to take into account the Reserve Bank's intention not to dispense with high real interest rates as a financial stabilising mechanism.

Net farming income covers interest payments about three times while a desirable ratio is regarded as being between four and six. Last year interest expenditure was about 10 percent of gross farming income against 5,5 percent in 1980.

Jansen pointed out that over the past 10 years the relative importance of individual agricultural products and sectors had undergone a distinct structural change.

Horticulture, which includes fruit and vegetables, had gained ground at the cost of field crops. It accounted for 21 percent of total output against 14 percent in 1980/81 while field crops' contribution had dwindled to 36 percent from 49 percent over this period.

It's so easy to be a thrifty consumer

BY NIKKI WHITFIELD
CONSUMER REPORTER

Water, water, nowhere. And soon, not a drop to drink.

As soon, in fact, as the end of next winter — unless our parched land is blessed with abundant summer rains, and we all do our bit to save water.

The Vaal Dam is now down to 13% capacity and 1% is lost through evaporation every week.

A family of five uses about 1 000l of water every day, equivalent to 100 full buckets. But that much is really not necessary. A day in the life of a water-conscious Joe Soap would mean:

Joe wakes up and goes to the kitchen to fill the kettle, then goes to shave. He puts the plug in the basin immediately — he doesn't wait for the water to heat up before stopping the hole. He doesn't brush his teeth with the tap on, either. (Leaving a tap running while doing something as quick and simple as brushing

your teeth can waste about 5l.)

Then he showers, but times himself on his waterproof watch. He's out of there before four minutes is up. A long shower, he knows, can waste over 200l. Some mornings he baths instead, but only fills the tub half full, saving 8l. A full bath takes about 120l.

When he goes to the loo, he depresses the handle long enough only to get rid of what is in the bowl. He has already bent the ball valve arm inside the cistern to adjust the amount of water rushing in after each flush. A full-cistern flush uses 11l.

Twice a week, from 5pm to 7pm, he waters his garden, but not with a sprinkler attached to a hose. He makes use of his irrigation system — he has a micro-mist drip system — but he has adjusted it to ensure it waters only the plants and not the lawn.

Joe tops up his swimming pool

only when absolutely necessary.

When he washes his car, he uses two buckets full of water — one for cleaning and one for rinsing. This saves about 10l.

Joe uses his washing machine only when he has a full load. A washing machine uses 150l of water for every load. Similarly, he makes sure his dishwasher is choc-a-block before pressing the "on" button, or he washes up in a sink only half-full.

Every day he checks his water meter and plots his daily household consumption on a graph. When checking his meter, he takes particular note of the little black star wheel under the strip giving the consumption figure.


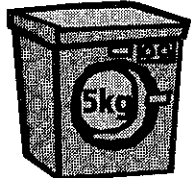


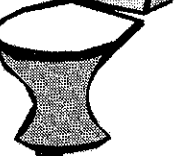
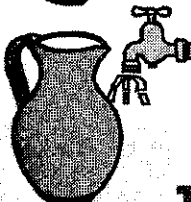
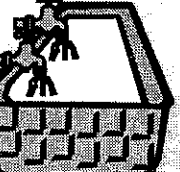
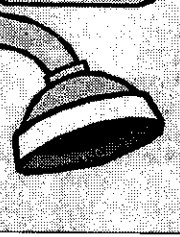
If the wheel is turning, he knows he has a problem — there is a leak somewhere and he must call a plumber. He also makes sure he has no dripping taps — one that drips every second wastes up to 30l a day.

Joe has managed to cut down household consumption by 30%.

Star 16/8/95

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A 20 kl (20 000 litres) WATER ALLOWANCE IN A 30-DAY MONTH

Based on a family of 2 adults and 2 children. The adults would each shower every day, and the children would share a bath. This is a family with 2 cars.

	<p>A 2-litre kettle, filled 10 times a day = 20 litres a day 20 x 30 = 600 litres</p>		<p>A washing machine load a day, using 150 litres a wash 150 x 30 = 4 500 litres</p>
	<p>10 flushes a day at 11 litres a flush = 110 litres a day 110 x 30 = 3 300 litres</p>		<p>2 x 10-litre buckets per car wash, washing 2 cars once a week = 40 litres per week 40 x 4 weeks = 160 litres</p>
	<p>120 litres a bath at 1 bath a day = 120 litres a day 120 x 30 = 3 600 litres</p>		<p>Washing up water using 25,5 litres a day 25,5 x 30 = 765 litres</p>
	<p>2 x 4min showers using 60 litres a shower = 120 litres a day 120 x 30 = 3 600 litres</p>	<p>TOTAL: 16 525 litres</p>	
	<p>This leaves a household with 3 475 litres of water to water the garden, fill the pool etc.</p>		

All the ins and outs of revised tariff structure

(3) (21)
Nov 16/8/95
BY NIKKI WHITFIELD

Everyone knows Gauteng has to cut down on its water consumption, but the department of water and gas believes this cannot be said often enough.

The department has made a video outlining how to save water, which will be shown to schools and other public bodies. And a pamphlet explaining what to do and what not to do will soon be placed in postboxes.

Each household is urged to cut usage by 30%. A quota will be calculated by tallying consumption from July 1 1994 to June 30 1995 and dividing it by 12 to get a monthly average. A quota is derived by allowing 70% of the monthly average. For example, if a household has an average monthly consumption of 30kl, its quota will be 70% of 30kl, which equals 21kl.

If a household with a quota of 21kl uses 33kl one month, the bill is worked out as follows:

- 0-10kl: R12 (at R1,20/kl).
- 10-20kl: R17 (at R1,70/kl).
- 20-33kl: R29,90 (at R2,30/kl).

Normally, the total would have

been R58,90, but a R45 fine will be charged for the extra 12kl (R3,75 will be charged for every kilolitre over the quota). So the total will be R103,90 (the "normal" bill plus the fine).

People will also be fined if caught using water illegally.

A minimum quota of 20kl has been laid down in households within the Greater Johannesburg area. Some households' average monthly consumption might be worked out as being only 25kl. Seventy percent of this is only 17,5kl, but this does not mean that will be the household's quota, which will be 20kl.

Wally Papendorf, deputy director of water and gas, explained why. "People who have been wasting water over the past year, or people who have large families, will have a higher quota when it is worked out by judging how much water has been used over the past year.

"Taking 30% off these totals will therefore give these people a higher quota than those who've used water frugally. So a minimum quota of 20kl was introduced to make it a little fairer."

(3) (210)
10/16/8/95

Agriculture, mining drag down growth

Mungo Soggot

ECONOMIC growth faltered to an annualised 0,8% in the second quarter from the first, fuelling hopes that the fragile recovery would cause the Reserve Bank to hold off on higher interest rates until next year.

Central Statistical Service figures released yesterday showed disastrous performances from mining and agriculture had dragged the overall figure down. But an encouraging feature was manufacturing, which had put in a sound showing.

The second quarter's sluggish performance followed mediocre annualised growth of 1,5% in the first quarter. However, economists said it was still possible to get 3% growth for the year, particularly if mining and agriculture picked up. Last year the economy grew 2,3%.

Bond market bulls immediately latched on to the figure — they saw the lacklustre pace of the economy as a positive signal for inflation. But not all market players were convinced, and even though long bond rates dashed through the 15,90% resistance level, profit-taking jerked them back up again. After touching a low of 15,83%, the yield on government's benchmark R150 closed at 15,98% from a previous 15,95%.

The figure also gave ammunition to economists predicting Bank rate would go up again at the beginning of next year.

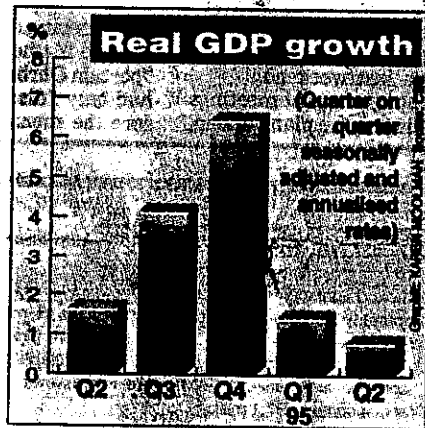
The figures showed the drought-hit agriculture sector had slowed 41,7% and the mining sector's labour problems had seen it shrink 11%. The manufacturing sector grew 7% and the financial sector 5,1%. All figures are seasonally adjusted and annualised quarter-on-quarter changes, unless otherwise stated.

Most economists said the annualised figure, which the bond market had homed in on, exaggerated the weakness of the economy. The year-on-year growth of 3,2% for the second quarter was more encouraging. Standard Bank's economics division said SA needed an average year-on-year rate in the second quarter of only 2,7% to bag 3% growth for the year. Most economists said 3% was likely, barring a further deterioration in the performance of the primary sector.

One economist said that excluding agriculture and mining, the economy had grown an annualised 5%. "The financial and industrial parts of the economy are roaring ahead. That's why corporate earnings have been so good."

Boner & Freemantle chief economist Gad Ariovich said the figures gave "very

Continued on Page 2



Growth (3) (210)

Continued from Page 1

little reason for celebration". The relatively good year-on-year figure had come off a low base from last year when the economy had been hit by election fears.

Credit Guarantee senior economist Luke Doig said even a 3% growth rate for the year was unlikely to have an impact on "real economic variables such as employment creation". Another economist said SA needed growth of about 7% to stop the annual addition to the unemployed.

Standard Bank said it was heartening that the manufacturing, wholesale and re-

tail sectors had performed so well, as they accounted for 55% of the economy.

Their strength indicated that the expansion was broad based and the gradual manner in which the economy was picking up meant it should be more sustainable.

Economists have warned that the manufacturing sector, which has blossomed because of a surge in fixed investment and improved productivity, could be in danger of tailing off. Latest CSS figures showed that although manufacturing production volumes were up in the three months to May over the previous three months, June volumes were expected to show a significant decrease.

petrol; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (4) whether any obstacles are being envisaged in regard to the introduction of lead-free petrol; if so, what obstacles?

S322E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS
(for the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs):

- (1) Following the Cabinet's confirmation, on Wednesday, 3 August 1995, of the introduction of unleaded petrol, it is expected that unleaded petrol will become available in South Africa by February 1996.
- (2) and (3) On 3 August 1995, Cabinet approved a price-and-tax plan for the introduction of unleaded petrol. The plan provides for the initial price of unleaded petrol to be 4 cents per litre cheaper than the present leaded petrol. If the plan is accepted, the lower price will be achieved by levying a lower tax on unleaded petrol so that the price differential will not involve the subsidisation of unleaded petrol by leaded petrol users.

The introduction of unleaded petrol at a marginally lower price follows the practice of other countries. In order to render the refining of unleaded petrol economically viable, it needs to capture at least 20% of petrol sales within the first year of introduction. It is estimated that the 4 cents per litre difference on the price of unleaded petrol will achieve this.

- (4) More than 90% of the current South African vehicle population can operate on unleaded petrol. 65% of vehicles require no modification at all; 15% require minor and therefore inexpensive ignition timing adjustment; and 10% require one tank of leaded petrol for every four to five tanks of unleaded petrol used. Only 10% of vehicles will not be able to use unleaded petrol and will have to continue using leaded petrol.

A survey by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa found that no specific ownership group will be materially prejudiced by the introduction of unleaded petrol. Such vehicles as will still require leaded petrol are mostly of the high-performance type more

likely to be owned by upper and upper-middle income groups. The survey also showed that over 90% of minibus-taxis will be able to use unleaded petrol. Most minibus-taxi operators, and through them the 52% of commuters whom they transport, will therefore benefit from the introduction of the lower-priced unleaded petrol.

Unleaded petrol is not being introduced into South Africa primarily for ecological reasons although it is a first step in the process to render motor vehicle emissions more environment-friendly. The main reason for its introduction is to benefit from the advantage of economies of scale and contemporary technological development, since 80% of the world's current motor vehicle technology is based on unleaded petrol.

On 3 August 1995, Cabinet also considered the use of catalytic converters for motor vehicles in South Africa. Preliminary investigations show that environmental considerations do not yet require the use of catalytic converters here. It was decided that no compulsory use of catalytic converters would be required upon the introduction of unleaded petrol.

A comprehensive environmental monitoring system is being established to determine pollution levels and will indicate when the use of catalytic converters may become necessary.

As can be seen from the above, no significant obstacles are expected in connection with the introduction of unleaded petrol.

Land Reform Bill: agricultural unions consulted

*5. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Land Affairs:

Whether at any time during the preparation of the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill of 1995, he consulted with any agricultural unions; if not, why not; if so, which unions?

S323E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

Yes.

The Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill, 1995, is the result of various discussions between

(3) (4)

myself and interested role-players involved with this issue. I have met, on a number of occasions, with representatives of landowners and labour tenants.

Earlier this year, I stated publicly that I had appointed a task team to investigate the issue and to draft legislation which would serve as a basis for further discussion. The result of that work was the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill, which was approved by Cabinet and published on 2 June 1995 in the *Gazette* for general comment. In order to give ample opportunity for general comment and discussion, a period of six weeks was allowed.

Discussions have already been held with representatives of the Transvaal Agricultural Union at a public meeting in Pietersburg, as well as with the President of the Natal Agricultural Union.

At a two-day workshop with interested parties during July, a number of experts, representatives of organised agriculture, the financial sector, organised labour and the government household got together in an effort to assist with the finalisation of the Bill. Following these deliberations, representatives of both the organised agriculture and the labour tenants met with our legal adviser to affect amendments as agreed to.

This, in my opinion, was a transparent and consultative process to deal with the Bill.

New questions:

Persons convicted of economic crimes released on parole

*6. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

- (1) Whether any persons convicted of economic crimes have been released on parole since 1 January 1995; if so, (a) how many and (b) what crimes were they convicted of;
- (2) whether any of these persons had not yet served any part of their sentences; if so, how many?

S343E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (1) Yes. (a) and (b) Information in this regard is not readily available and can only be

obtained through a time-consuming, expensive and manpower-intensive country-wide survey.

(2) No.

*7. Sen W F MNISI—Education. [Question standing over.]

Persons resigned from service of Division of Sea Fisheries

*8. Sen M G E WILBY asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

- (1) Whether any persons resigned from the service of the Division of Sea Fisheries recently; if so, (a) what are the names of these persons, (b) what rank did each of these persons hold, (c) which of these persons (i) retired due to reaching retirement age and (ii) accepted a retirement package and (d) what reasons were furnished for these retirements in each case;
- (2) whether their retirement will have an adverse effect on the functioning of the Division of Sea Fisheries; if so, what steps does he envisage in this regard?

S345E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (for the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism):

- (1) Yes, nine persons left the service of the Chief Directorate Sea Fisheries during the period from 1 January 1995 to 31 July 1995.

(a) and (b) They are:
Mr J J Frans—Temporary Ship's Cook
Mr J N Long—Chief Navigation Officer
Mrs E Samuels—Cleaner I
Dr L V Shanon—Director
Mr C Pengilly—Assistant Director: Administration
Mr E H le Roux—Assistant Director: Financial Management
Capt J D Richardson—Chief Marine Superintendent
Dr L Botha—Chief Director
Mr L E Olivier—Deputy Director: Administration

- (c) (i) Messrs J J Frans and J N Long retired due to reaching the retirement age.

Draft law to aid land development tabled

Cape Town — Draft legislation to cut through red tape in rural and urban land development was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

According to Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, the Development Facilitation Bill will help provide developed land faster than is possible under existing legislation.

He said in a memorandum that the measure would offer uniform national standards for land development and set up development tribunals to resolve conflicts with a minimum of delay.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme needed a significant increase in the rate and scale of land development for industrial, commercial, residential, small scale agricultural and other uses.

Provincial governments faced the "extraordinarily complex" task of administering this under existing legislation, which some times only applied to specific geographical areas such as former group areas or homelands.

In addition, existing laws on land development were often not appropriate for the RDP.

Some laws prescribed "second

class" procedures for certain areas, while others did little for government accountability or transparency.

The Bill would become a "nationally uniform point of reference", and offer a legislative "fast track" through complex land development processes.

Provinces would be able to use the measure as an alternative to provincial laws.

The Bill proposed a development and planning commission to investigate more thorough and longer-term reforms.

The commission would look at issues such as planning, land

"assembly" and release, land use control, tenure, engineering infrastructure and rural development.

Similar commissions could be set up at provincial level.

The development tribunals would have powers to resolve "typical development conflicts" and to speed up decision-making and approvals.

The Bill also contained provisions intended to make it possible for end-user finance such as mortgage loans or government subsidies to become available earlier in the development process. — Sapa.

(3) Staw 17/8/95

Angry farmers allege funds mismanaged

00 17/8/95
(3) (2115)
NELSPRUIT — More than 250 angry black farmers marched on Eastern Transvaal agriculture MEC Lucas Neil's offices yesterday morning to demand that he be dismissed for alleged mismanagement.

The marchers were addressed by premier Mathews Phosa, who told them he sympathised with their plight and that he would meet the executive tomorrow.

The marchers charged that R5m which was allocated for farming in the province was being incorrectly spent.

"This massive sum was budgeted to develop agriculture in the province, but is being used by Neil as drought relief for big commercial farmers in the province," charged forum chairman Roy Nkosi.

"This is not developing anything; instead farmers are being encouraged to continue farming crops unsuited to our climate. Neil is continuing the policies of the past."

Nkosi believed the money should rather be used for agricultural job creation and skills training, with an emphasis on sustainable farming.

The department of agriculture released a statement questioning the forum's motive for marching after pointing out a meeting between forum members and Phosa had been scheduled for tomorrow.

"We have repeatedly stated the department has to act within treasury guidelines, legal procedures and criteria which are being developed in co-operation with the central agriculture department and organised agriculture regarding drought and other financial assistance measures," the statement said. — African Eye News.

Drought aid offered

(3) CT 17/8/95

STAFF REPORTER

FARMERS taking part in the state Land Change-over Scheme and who cannot plant pastures or who have lost pastures due to drought can apply for their debts to be written off, the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) said yesterday.

The SAAU said Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk had agreed to this after union submissions that farmers' debts could be written off under certain conditions.

These included farmers who received advances for changing over land to pastures and who incurred expenses for such work but were unable to because of the drought.

Farmers have until October 31 to apply for this help from the Department of Agriculture, the SAAU said.

Bill to hasten land development tabled

(3) ~~17/18/95~~ CT 17/18/95

A DRAFT bill to cut through red tape in rural and urban land development was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said the Development Facilitation Bill would help meet the need for land faster than was possible at present.

He said in a memorandum this measure would offer uniform national standards for land development.

It would set up development tribunals to resolve conflicts with minimum delay.

The RDP needed a significant increase in the rate and scale of land development for industrial, commercial, residential and small scale agricultural uses, he said.

The bill proposes a commission to investigate more thorough reforms in land development. — Sapa

The farm where they put the RDP in action

ARG 17/8/95 (3) (20)



NEW BREED: Gavin Armstrong proudly rubs the pot-bellied sandveld red pig. The pig is the product of cross-breeding five pig species.

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter

OLD MacDonald would certainly have been proud if his farm had the variety of exotic animals and trees found on a new farming project about 10km south of Malmesbury.

Sheep from Angola, geese from China, fowls from Wales and trees from all parts of the world are being used to help revolutionise small-scale farming in South Africa and help it become profitable.

Started by the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, a non-governmental organisation, the concept is based on biological farming methods and is environmentally friendly and cost effective.

Making good use of local and imported animal and plant species, the pilot farming project was started about two years ago on a 17 hectare smallholding by Gavin Armstrong.

The small farmyard has a hen house, a pigeon coop, a pigsty, a kraal for sheep and areas cultivated with various crops interspersed with trees and saplings.

Sheep from southern Angola interbred with Damara sheep; a new breed of pig, the sandveld red, which is the product of cross-breeding five species; Chinese and South American geese and big meat pigeons all seem at home on the farm.

Mr Armstrong, the project co-ordinator, said the unconventional farming methods, or low-input sustainable agriculture, were designed to make optimal use of the land and the conditions available.

"Small farmers were seldom given government aid or assistance and struggled throughout their lives to make ends meet.

"With the new government in place and many former dis-

placed communities getting their land back, there is a need to teach these communities how to lead profitable lives with the resources available.

Although negotiations between the NGO and government departments are continuing and educational institutes like the University of the Western Cape and the Agricultural Research Council at Onderstepoort showed an interest in the farming methods and breeds of animals, the project is in need of funds to keep going.

"These livestock and trees are a hardy lot and will do well under almost any conditions but because of the funds shortage, our hands are tied. The government is willing to help small-scale farming through its Reconstruction and Development Programme and what we have here is RDP farming in action."



Pictures: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

FEEDING TIME: Gavin Armstrong of the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture feeds the farm's sheep, which are from southern Angola and interbred with Damara sheep.



PROUD FARMERS: Gavin Armstrong, right, and Ferdie Engel of the University of the Western Cape's Land Development Unit on a walk-about on the farm.

CC

PIC's assets grow 27 percent

The assets under management of the Public Investment Commissioners grew almost 27 percent in the year ended in March last year to R83,2 billion.

This makes the commissioners the fourth biggest fund manager in the country after Old Mutual, Sanlam and Liberty Life.

Funds under its management can be expected to grow substantially over the next few years as the

government moves to make up significant actuarial shortfalls in the state pension funds.

In a report tabled in parliament, the commissioners announced that almost R80 billion of the total amount under management was made up of various government pension funds. Part of the assets will soon be loosened up and invested in equity and other markets. — Bruce Cameron

Three Safcol sawmills to be upgraded

BY ROY CORAYNE

PRETORIA BUSINESS EDITOR

CT(OR) 17/8/95
The South African Forestry Company (Safcol), the parastatal to which the state's commercial forestry undertakings have been transferred, has embarked on a R50 million first-phase capital expenditure programme to upgrade its sawmills.

The programme forms part of Safcol's strategy to boost the export of value-added timber products.

Tienie van Vuuren, the chief executive of Safcol, said its exports were worth between R20 million and R30 million.

Safcol's refurbishment programme was being financed from extra funds it was obtaining from the export of 'top grade logs' — many to Pacific Rim markets.

"But only a very limited volume of logs — not more than 6 percent — is being exported because Safcol is tied to long-term log supply contracts."

Van Vuuren said Safcol was refurbishing three of its sawmills — Weza in southern KwaZulu Natal, George in the Western Cape and Blyde at Graskop — at a cost of R50 million this year as the first phase of a refurbishment programme.

Refurbishment of all its sawmills would probably cost double this.

Van Vuuren said the export of top-grade logs was only one leg of Safcol's export programme; the other was the export of finished value-added products.

Apart from refurbishing its own sawmills, Safcol was also promoting the refurbishment of sawmills among its clients.

Sale of state-owned land on the cards

BY BRUCE CAMERON

POLITICAL EDITOR

The sale of as much as 780 000ha of state-owned land, worth millions of rands, is on the cards — and most of the land will go to deprived communities.

The land was bought in the apartheid years for the consolidation of the homelands, but was never transferred. It had been held by the now-defunct South African Development Trust.

Frans van der Merwe, the director general of the department of agriculture, which now controls the land, has told the parliamentary committee on public accounts that the land will be available as soon as possible for deprived communities.

At the moment, most of the land is being leased on short-term, one-year agreements.

In an interview with Business Report, Van der Merwe said a three-pronged approach was being taken to dispense with the land:

□ The land could be leased out with an option given to the lessee to purchase the land;

□ It could be sold outright to

buyers selected in co-operation with local communities. The price would be set on the agricultural value of the land and not the market value; and

□ Transfer of the land to communities who would use it for fairly high density rural settlement and small scale farming.

The land could be valued at anywhere between R20 and R5 000 a hectare, depending on its agricultural potential.

Van der Merwe said a small proportion of the land may still be subject to claims in the Land Claims Court.

Earlier, Van der Merwe told the parliamentary committee that his department had taken over the assets of the trust without knowing what it was getting.

With moveable assets on the land, his department had been forced to adopt a redline approach starting from a zero base in drawing up a list of the assets.

He said there was no point in attempting to reconcile the new list with any previous record as the trust either did not have or had lost its records.

Tapping of Zambezi's waters for SA discussed

(3) ~~13~~ Star 18/8/95

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

The Government is talking to neighbouring countries about tapping the waters of the Zambezi River in a multibillion-rand supply project which would dwarf the massive Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

Government officials met representatives of southern African states this week in preliminary discussions as SA's water supplies continue to dwindle.

It is planned for Zambezi water to be sent 1 800km through a system of canals, pipelines and tunnels to augment the Vaal River system, which supplies water to the Gauteng industrial and residential complex.

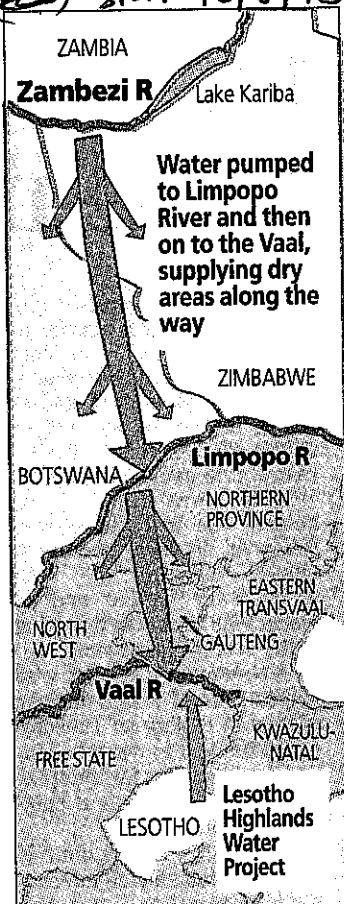
The distance to be covered — the official route has not been divulged — is almost five times longer than that over which water from the LHWP will flow to the Vaal. The LHWP, latest estimates say, is costing R18,5-billion at today's prices.

The Zambezi water will probably also be used for agricultural, domestic and industrial purposes in parched western Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana and north-west SA, and provide thousands of jobs in all three countries as well being a source of much-needed foreign currency to countries such as Zambia.

The plan, believed to be the most ambitious of its kind in the world, would skim off about 10% of the river's annual flow. The Zambezi is one of the few rivers in Africa which flows continuously all year round.

No statement has yet been issued on Wednesday's talks beyond the fact that the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry "has already initiated the preliminary steps required to investigate a project which will supply water from the Zambezi".

Dr Paul Roberts, the department's deputy director-general,



development, said yesterday: "The recent admittance of South Africa as a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will greatly facilitate contact with the (member) countries."

The proposed project would have to transfer the water over a distance of about 1 800km and the cost of water would be much higher than current water tariffs, he added.

The SADC is expected to discuss the idea at its summit meeting to be attended by 12 southern African heads of state in Kempton Park next week. No early decision is likely.

Rainbow Chicken ad angers US producers

(3) CT(BR) 18/8/95
SHIRLEY JONES

STAFF WRITER

Rainbow Chicken's "Buy South African" campaign has offended American poultry producers who say it constitutes an unwarranted slur on their products.

The USA Poultry and Egg Export Council, which represents the majority of American poultry producers, said Rainbow ignored the fact that South Africans had consumed imported chicken for decades and that Rainbow had imported chickens to fill local orders during a severe outbreak of Newcastle disease between January and July last year.

The advertisement, which appeared in major newspapers, depicts a stuffed dodo inside a museum display case and questions both the age and the health risks associated with imported chicken.

Jim Sumner, president of the council, said the claims were "nonsense".

"Our members must meet the highest inspection standards in the world. The product we export to South Africa is wholesome, nutritious and is of the same standard as that in American supermarkets," said Sumner.

He said all American poultry came from plants inspected by the government.

Chicken was frozen as it came out of the plant and was quickly transported to ports from where it was shipped to South Africa in refrigerated vessels where the temperature was constantly monitored.

"Contrary to what some people would have you believe, the product is not any older than much of the South African product, much of which is also frozen," he said.

Sumner said neither the American poultry industry nor the grain used to make chicken feed was subsidised by the American government.

The US is among the largest suppliers of imported chicken to South Africa.

Massive water scheme to tap Zambezi river

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The government is talking to neighbouring countries about tapping the waters of the Zambezi River in a multi-billion rand supply project which will dwarf the massive Lesotho Highlands water project (LHWP).

Government officials this week met representatives of Southern African states in preliminary discussions as the country's water supplies continue to dwindle.

It is planned that Zambezi water be sent 1 800 km through a system of canals, pipelines and tunnels to augment the Vaal River system, which supplies water to the Gauteng industrial and residential complex.

The distance to be covered — the official route has not been divulged — is almost five times longer than that over which water from the LHWP will flow to the Vaal.

The LHWP, latest estimates say, is costing R18,5-billion at today's prices.

The Zambezi water probably also will be used for agricultural, domestic and industrial purposes in parched western Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana and north-west South Africa, and provide thousands of jobs in all three countries as well as being a source of much-needed foreign currency to countries such as Zambia.

The scheme, believed to be the most ambitious of its kind in the world, is expected to skim off about 10 percent of the river's annual flow. The Zambezi is one of the few rivers in Africa which flows continuously all year round.

No statement has been issued on Wednesday's talks beyond the fact that the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry "has already initiated the preliminary steps required to investigate a project which will supply water from the Zambezi River".

Paul Roberts, the department's deputy director-general: development, said yesterday "the recent admittance of South Africa as a member of the Southern Africa Development community (SADC) will greatly facilitate contact with the (member) countries".

According to Dr Roberts, "the proposed project is an enormous one and would be larger than the Lesotho Highlands water project".

SADC is expected to discuss the idea at its summit meeting to be attended by 12 southern African heads of state at Kempton Park next week. No early decision is likely, but Water Department officials say the matter is urgent for South Africa as the Vaal River system, aided by the LHWP, will not be able to sustain fully the Gauteng area beyond the year 2010 — in 15 years time.

Joining (3) African bank 'will create jobs'

By DRG 19/8/95
Political Staff

SOUTH Africa's accession to membership of the African Development Bank (AfDB) will create jobs and contribute positively to the balance of payments, said Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg.

In reply to a question tabled in the senate, Mr Liebenberg said the cabinet had decided South Africa should apply for membership of the AfDB before August 25.

Considerations taken into account had included the strengthening of South Africa's "solidarity" with Africa, as South Africa was the last country to join.

South Africa had also expressed a desire to eventually play a role in the bank commensurate with the country's economic importance in Africa.

At the same time, however, the government had needed to ensure that South Africa's shareholding in the AfDB would be a good investment.

The cabinet approved an accession model that would minimise South Africa's exposure to the bank's financial and managerial problems and allow the country to assess the AfDB's performance before increasing shareholding from an initial one per cent.

New Environment Act by 1997

(8) Staw 21/8/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

A new Environment Act can be in place early in 1997 only, according to an ambitious timetable accepted at the Consultative Conference on Environment Policy, which ended in Johannesburg on Friday.

The historic forum at Nasrec was the first time that various sectors in South Africa were involved in the process of framing environmental legislation.

Over two days, sober-suited men of government, industry and business debated issues with a much more casual crowd representing grassroots organisations

and communities.

Their task was to reach agreement on the process that should be followed to ensure that every South African was given the opportunity to have a say in framing environmental legislation.

At the close of the conference, delegates resolved to return to their constituencies and to immediately set up forums at provincial and local levels. Reports from the various workshops would be circulated and discussed. A task team would also compile an initial Green Paper which would be passed on to delegates by October.

Return reports from delegates would be passed on to the task team by February next year. These would be synthesised in to a draft Green Paper by March. A second round of consultation until July would follow, so that a draft White Paper could be ready by November and hopefully, by early in 1997, the new legislation would be passed by Parliament.

At the closing plenary, delegates supported a proposal by Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers for a newly constituted 18-member Council of Environment to advise him in the interim period until the new Act was passed.

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Policeman found dead

The body of Assistant-Constable Jacob Maboe (30) was found in Evaton in the Vaal Triangle yesterday with stab wounds in the chest and neck, said police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Piet van Deventer.

Maboe was a member of the Vaal Triangle police dog unit.

The motive for the attack is unknown. No arrests have been made. — Sapa.

Industry does its bit by recycling water

Staw 21/8/95 (8) (3)

■ STAFF REPORTER

Private businesses were turning increasingly to water recycling as the campaign to save water gained momentum, a Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry survey revealed.

But recycling, the chamber said, could lead to higher prices for products in some industries.

JCCI chief executive Marius de Jager said the business community was

confident that the re-quired water savings could be achieved.

He said the majority of businesses in the industrial sector were waiting for official notification of their water consumption quotas to fully assess the contribution they could make to conserve water.

The quotas would be clearly indicated on their next accounts, he added.

De Jager said that in the bottling and glass manufacturing sectors companies were looking

at the possibility of installing plants and procedures that would recycle much of the water used in the production process.

"It is unlikely, though, that the cost of these modifications could be absorbed, and they may translate into higher prices for consumers.

"Businesses are urged to take careful note of those quotas so that the maximum saving of water can be achieved," he said.

Ministerial differences delay repeal of land Act

Draw Forrest

(3)

DIFFERENCES between the departments of land and agriculture are delaying the repeal of a 25-year-old statute seen as a major obstacle to land reform.

21/8/95

The Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act was passed in 1970 to prevent the subdivision of farmland into smaller, "economically unviable" holdings, as well as its use for back-door residential development.

A land department source said that the Act, which was administered by Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk, had become an "important constraint" on the release of land for the settlement of small black farmers and groups in terms of the government's demand-driven land reform programme.

It compelled farmers wishing to subdivide to approach Van Niekerk, who in turn consulted district farming bodies on whether this should be permitted. Long-term leases, used to circumvent the Act, also required ministerial approval.

The procedure was cumbersome and made source said.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom indicated in his budget speech this year that the Act

was high on his legislative agenda. According to an official document which is due to be tabled for discussion at the national land conference later this month, the land affairs department believes it should be repealed.

However, the source said the agriculture department, fearing the loss of productive farmland, was resisting the repeal of the statute.

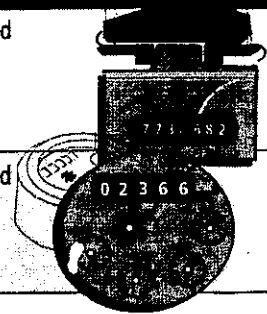
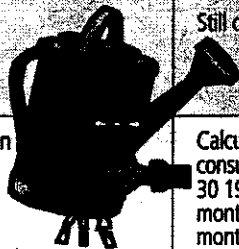
"We believe we need a different kind of instrument to protect farmland," he said. "One possibility is to beef up the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act. Another is to lay emphasis on land use, rather than subdivision. In other countries, you can subdivide without being able to develop residentially."

Eric Buiten, chief director of the land reform policy co-ordination, confirmed the two departments were debating the Act. "There are differences of opinion, but we must find each other," Buiten said. "We need a formula which satisfies both sides."

The draft policy document to be discussed at the land conference also indicates that the Physical Planning Act, which governs land use planning, will be reviewed with the goal of bringing it in line with the RDP.

The document notes that the Act operates independently of both urban transport legislation and provincial planning ordinances.

AREA	QUOTA	TARIFF
Greater Johannesburg (Sandton, Johannesburg, Randburg, Greater Soweto and Roodepoort)	Calculated by tallying up household consumption from July 1, 1994 - June 30 1995 and dividing by 12 to get monthly average. Then allow 70% of monthly average as maximum.	R3,75 will be charged for every kl over the quota.
Randfontein	Calculated by tallying up household consumption from July 1, 1994 - June 30 1995 and dividing by 12 to get monthly average. Then allow 70% of monthly average as maximum.	R3,75 will be charged for every kl over the quota.
Edenvale and Modderfontein	The monthly quota is 24kl per household.	R2,00 will be charged for extra kl between 24 - 45 R3,20 will be charged for extra kl between 45 - 65 R4,00 will be charged for extra kl exceeding 65
Kempton Park	No quota	R1,14 per kl for first 10 kl R2,96 per kl for 11 - 20kl R4,22 per kl for 21 - 30kl R6,16 per kl for more than 30kl
Germiston	The monthly quota is 30kl per household.	R1,00 per month for every kl used over 30kl from August.
Alberton	The monthly quota is 30kl per household.	50c will be charged for every kl over the quota.
Boksburg	Calculated by tallying up household consumption from July 1, 1994 - June 30 1995 and dividing by 12 to get monthly average. Then allow 70% of monthly average as maximum.	R3,75 will be charged for every kl over the quota.
Benoni	Still calculating.	Still calculating.
Brakpan	Calculated by tallying up household consumption from July 1, 1994 - June 30 1995 and dividing by 12 to get monthly average. Then allow 70% of monthly average as maximum.	R3,75 will be charged for every kl over the quota.



Municipalities adopting hard line over water curbs

(3) ~~Star~~ Star 22/8/95

BY LORNA ZOKUFA
CITY REPORTER

Gauteng municipalities have imposed wide-ranging water restrictions on residents with, in addition, punitive tariffs for excessive use as the province rallies to save the scarce natural resource.

After a poor response from consumers to a ministerial plea to save water, Rand Water introduced a quota system for its bulk customers this month, coupled with stiff cost penalties for excessive use.

Municipalities are expected to cut their use by 20%, failing which a penalty tariff will be applied. The Rand Water tariff becomes more severe as the quota is exceeded.

"It is reasonable to expect municipalities which exceed quotas, and therefore pay for excess water at the penalty rate, will pass on the costs to their own customers who exceed consumption limits set down," said Rand Water's spokesman, Mandi Gwele-Maepa.

A survey by The Star found most councils have responded with a two-pronged approach.

The first approach to encourage residents to save water is the introduction of restrictions to curtail use. The most common restrictions are a ban on the use of sprinklers and restricted garden watering times.

The Midrand municipality has

not imposed a tariff rate, but anybody in the area found guilty of breaking the water restrictions can be fined up to R100 or jailed for a period not exceeding three months.

However, most other councils have concentrated on punitive tariffs, which they have imposed all round.

While municipalities within Greater Johannesburg and Randfontein will charge an extra R3,75/kl once residents exceed their quotas, Brakpan has imposed a sliding scale of punitive tariffs which increase rapidly by R1/kl. So, if a Brakpan consumer is 2kl over the quota, he or she will pay an additional R2/kl. Anyone who is 5kl or more above the quota will pay R5 per kilolitre thereafter.

Baffled

"Some people have accepted this method, but others feel that they have been saving water all the time and do not understand why such tariffs should be imposed on them," said Brakpan City Engineer Faan van Wyk.

The quota in Greater Johannesburg and Randfontein is calculated by tallying up a household's consumption from July 1 1994 to June 30 1995, and dividing this by 12 to get a monthly average.

Each household is allowed to use 70% of the monthly average as its maximum amount.

State 'needs constitutional right to take over private land

Political Staff

THE constitution should make a "clear statement" to allow the state to expropriate private land for its land reform programme, according to the draft land policy principles from the Department of Land Affairs.

The document is due to be discussed at a national conference on land policy at the World Trade Centre in Kemp-

ton Park next weekend.

The conference's decisions will be issued as a green paper, which will later become the government's definitive statement on land issues.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said in a submission to the constitutional assembly that existing property rights should not be guaranteed in the new constitution.

His proposal went against opinions expressed by senior ANC figures, including Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal.

The document closely reflects Mr Hanekom's thinking on the issue. It says that where possible, land transfers should take place on a "willing seller-willing buyer" basis.

"However, this is not always

possible and the state must be able to expropriate land required for the public good. Addressing skewed patterns of land ownership, which are a cause of major injustice and social instability, is an example of the public good," the document says.

"The constitution must therefore make it possible for this to

take place. The interim constitution authorises expropriation for public purposes. While some argue that this does not authorise expropriation for the purposes of land reform, we disagree, and are confident that the courts will interpret the constitution as making effective land reform possible.

"However, it would be better

if the issue were placed beyond doubt by a clear statement in the constitution."

A ministerial committee reported last month on a method for calculating "just and equitable" compensation as required by the constitution.

There were no final cost estimates of what land restitution might cost.

(3/1995)

AKG 22/8/95

Water cuts affect patients

Bushbuckridge (Eastern Transvaal)

Power cuts in the past two weeks have disrupted health services at the Mapulaneng Hospital at Bushbuckridge in the Eastern Transvaal, leaving patients without proper medical care and sometimes without food.

A hospital spokesman said on Monday that the hospital also had no water at one stage, when an electric water pump feeding a reservoir broke down.

The problem has been further complicated by the tug-of-war between the Eastern Transvaal and Northern Province over who is responsible for the

(3) (12/12)
hospital.

Hospital secretary T Seleki said the need for an emergency power supply which would switch on automatically when required had been brought to the attention of the Northern Province health department, under whose jurisdiction the hospital still functioned.

However, he said it was unclear which provincial authority was responsible for solving the problem.

Eskom regional manager Siphon Tjabadi said in Pietersburg that he would investigate the cause of the power cuts.

— Sapa

Stow 23/8/95

Large-scale farming census launched

(3)

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

The first large-scale census in the country's history of the agriculture sector has been launched.

Financed by the Meat Board in co-operation with Unisa's Bureau of Market Research, the census is an attempt to build up a data bank of information which can be used for planning purposes.

It is hoped to obtain accurate information on farming in all areas, in particular the former homelands of Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei and Venda where little or no information about farming methods is known.

The census is also expected to provide new information on the state of farming in general as well as the actual number of farms which are productive, how many are leased or rented out by non-residents, and whether or not farms are owned by public or private companies and private corporations.

Circularised

Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO) chairman J A Fourie has circularised the country's 60 000 farmers in a bid to get their co-operation.

"Basic information is a prerequisite for planning in any industry, as well as in agriculture and more specifically the red meat industry," Fourie said.

He has also guaranteed the confidentiality of information.

Data being asked for covers a wide range of agricultural activities, and includes how much land is being farmed, what crops are being planted, livestock totals, the extent of big game farming, and other activities.

The crops information being sought will for the first time give an accurate picture of how many crops are actually under cultivation in individual magisterial districts.

Information is also being sought on crops other than cereals — these include nuts, tea, legumes and cotton.

Star 23/8/95

physical condition probably as a result of long distances travelled and the shock resulted in either heart attacks or kidney failure. The sixth person was killed as a result of a broken neck after falling off the fence.

New questions

Substitution of medicines with generic alternatives

*1. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister for Health:

Whether she is considering introducing legislation with the aim of making provision for the substitution of medicines with generic alternatives; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) what will such legislation entail and (c) what will be the estimated savings effected as a result?

S354E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

- (a) The cost of drugs in South Africa is extremely high and needs to be reduced substantially if we are to make health care accessible to our people. Generic substitution is a definite possibility and it is likely to be legislated.
- (b) This will entail amendment to the Pharmacy Act of 1974 (Act 53 of 1974).
- (c) At this stage an exact figure cannot be given as it would depend on the extent of the use of generic products, but for the individual patients and especially those using medication for chronic illnesses, it is estimated that the savings could in certain cases be as much as $\pm 60\%$.

Escape of prisoners receiving treatment at hospitals

*2. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

- (1) Whether any prisoners receiving treatment at hospitals in the Republic escaped during the latest specified period of five years for which information is available; if so, (a) how many, (b) from which hospitals did they escape and (c) what were the circumstances surrounding each such escape;
- (2) whether any deaths and/or injuries resulted from the escapes or attempts to recapture such escaping prisoners; if so, how many?

S356E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

(1) Yes.

(a) During the period 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1995, 181 prisoners escaped from hospitals, day clinics or specialists' consulting rooms.

(b) and (c) Information in this regard is not readily available and can only be obtained through a time-consuming, expensive and manpower-intensive country-wide survey. Should the hon Senator require information with regard to a specific incident, I would gladly make it available to him.

(2) Escapees are mainly re-arrested by the SA Police Service and information in this regard is not readily available.

Deregulation of agricultural marketing boards

*3. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether any directive has been issued to any agricultural marketing boards to deregulate; if so, (a) when and (b) what was the response thereto in each case;
- (2) whether he or his Department intends taking any action in respect of the response received from the said marketing boards; if not, why not; if so, what action?

S405E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) (a) and (b) No.

I did not give any directive to agricultural marketing boards to deregulate. However, in acceptance of the fact that agricultural marketing has to adjust to free marketing conditions I appointed the Kassier Committee and AMPEC both of which supported the principle of a freer market for the marketing of agricultural products. The farming community, perhaps more than any of the other business sectors, accepted the fact that changes had to occur in the marketing of their products and therefore made voluntary adjustments. These changes are in response to the macro-economic climate which has changed and demands a much more free market and the acceptance by the farming leaders of the fact that market principles will better

allocate resources and foster wealth than a regulated system. Most of the control boards have voluntarily deregulated over the past years. (See attached schedule.)

- (2) The Department of Agriculture, the National Marketing Council, Organised Agriculture and the Control Boards are in close collaboration in the establishment of a freer marketing environment for agricultural products. The Draft Bill for the Marketing of Agricultural Products encompasses this principle and it is foreseen that in future any government authorised intervention in agricultural marketing arrangements under the new Marketing Act will only be possible after sufficient support from the affected parties has been obtained.

Deregulation actions concerning controlled marketing of agricultural products over the past three years

1. BANANAS

The Banana Scheme was abolished on 31 March 1993 and the Board disbanded.

2. CHICORY

Chicory Scheme was abolished on 30 September 1993 and the Board disbanded.

3. CITRUS FRUIT

The single-channel domestic marketing system for local citrus fruit was abolished in favour of a free-market system. The export of citrus fruit takes place according to a single-desk approach.

4. COTTON

Restrictive registration of cotton ginners was abolished.

5. DAIRY

The Dairy Scheme was abolished on 31 December 1993 and the Board disbanded. A new Milk Scheme came into operation on 1 January 1994. This Scheme does not provide for the function of surplus removal

and pertains only to milk. The marketing of milk from the producer to the consumer is based on the free-market system.

6. DECIDUOUS FRUIT

The single-channel marketing system for deciduous fruit on the domestic market was abolished.

7. DRY BEANS

The Dry Bean Scheme was abolished on 30 September 1993. The Board was also disbanded on 30 September 1993. Import control was abolished and tariffs implemented.

8. EGGS

Surplus removal powers of the Egg Board were abolished and the egg processing plants sold. The Egg Scheme was abolished on 29 April 1994. Export control on eggs has also been abolished.

9. FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Free market—The principle of import tariffs on fruit and vegetables has been accepted.

10. GRAIN SORGHUM

The floor-price system has been replaced by a surplus removal system with voluntary pools.

11. LEGUMINOUS SEEDS

Quantitative import control on dry beans and other leguminous seeds was abolished. Tariffs were implemented.

12. LIVESTOCK

Export control on cattle, sheep, pigs and goats was abolished.

13. LUCERNE SEED

The single-channel pool system was replaced by a surplus removal system on 1 September 1994.

14. MAIZE

The annual subsidy paid to the Maize Board for handling and storage costs was phased out and suspended during 1991. The single-channel fixed price marketing system was abolished on 30 April 1995 under the new Maize Marketing Scheme. The Board does not control the domestic marketing of maize but operates a separate pool for surplus maize.

was also disbanded on 31 December 1993.

15. MARGARINE

Import control on margarine was revoked.

16. MEAT

Restrictive registration of abattoir agents, butchers, general dealers, meat processors, hides and skins dealers as well as importers was abolished. Quantitative import control was lifted. Tariffs were implemented. The prohibition establishing controlled areas was repealed, marking the freer movement of meat throughout the RSA, subject to hygiene requirements, possible. Control over meat products was scrapped.

17. MOHAIR

The single-channel pool system was replaced in September 1994 with a surplus removal system (floor prices).

18. OILSEEDS

Control over the exportation of vegetable oils was abolished. The marketing of groundnuts no longer takes place through a single-channel pool system, but by way of a surplus removal system with voluntary pools.

19. POTATOES

Export control on potatoes has been abolished. The Potato Scheme was abolished on 31 December 1993. The Potato Board

20. ROOIBOS TEA

Export control over rooibos tea was abolished. Restrictive registration of traders was also abolished. The Scheme was revoked on 30 September 1993 and the Board disbanded.

21. TOBACCO

Export payments by the Board ceased during 1993.

22. WHEAT

Restrictive registration of millers and bakers was abolished. Payment of subsidies on standard bread was suspended. Price determination on flour and standard bread was abolished.

23. WOOL

The single-channel pool marketing system was abolished and a new Wool Scheme implemented on 16 July 1993. In terms of the new Scheme producers market their wool in a free-market environment. The agreement between the Wool Board and BKB, as sole agent, for the marketing of wool was also discontinued. The functions of the Board are currently restricted to product development, quality control, market development, advertising and upkeep of an information system for the industry.

For written reply:

(304A)
Salaries of traditional leaders: criteria

116. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

- (1) (a) What specific criteria are used to determine which traditional leaders receive salaries, (b) who makes the decision in this regard and (c) what specific functions are salaried traditional leaders expected to perform;

- (2) whether any standards have been devised for measuring their performance; if not, why not; if so, what standards?

S223E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) (a) and (b) Traditional leaders are recognised and recommended by a meeting of the Royal Families. Leaders thus recommended are duly appointed in terms of applicable laws. The responsibility for the appointment of traditional leaders has been assigned to a competent authority within the government of the various provinces. Each leader's allowance, stipendium, salary and other privileges, are determined by the relevant premier of a province in consultation with the Treasury (Regulation 24 of the Regulations Prescribing the Duties, Powers, Privileges and Conditions of Services of Chiefs and Headmen—Proclamation No 110 of 1957).

- (c) The functions that traditional leaders are expected to perform are contained in the Regulations Presiding the Duties, Powers, Privileges and Conditions of Service of Chiefs and Headmen (Proclamation No 110 of 1957), and in laws and proclamations of the former Self-Governing Territories and TBVC States. For an overview of all the functions of traditional leaders, Proclamation No 110 of 1957, may be consulted.

- (2) The function of a traditional leader is executed by the office and personnel of the Tribal Authority. The performance of a traditional leader is subject to regulations contained in applicable proclamations and laws (eg. Regulation 30(1) of Proclamation No 110 of 1957). The balancing and auditing of financial statements must, for example, comply with the prescriptions of the Auditor-General.

ET 25/8/95
100 claims on
land ownership

3 ~~ET~~

PRETORIA: More than 100 claims for the restitution of land were being investigated, the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights said yesterday.

Land claims commission gets into gear

ST 27/8/95

By CHIARA CARTER

MORE than 4 700 applicants have staked their claim for land they say was taken from them as a result of apartheid.

Chief Land Claims Commissioner Joe Seremane said he had received 4 740 claims since May this year.

Most came from Kwa-zulu Natal (1 840), followed by Gauteng (949) and the Western Cape (616).

Mr Seremane said these claims were being transferred to the Commission on the Restitution of Land's regional offices which were operating on a skeleton staff.

He said the commission's work had been delayed by problems in filling posts.

Regional commissioners would be assisted by support staff and the commis-

sion intended to have a register of legal advisors, valuers and mediators.

Meanwhile, land rights groups have compiled a controversial land reform policy document which argues that the government should establish a land tax and expropriate some white-owned farms.

The National Land Committee (NLC), a network of non-governmental organisations that focus on land issues, will release its land reform policy proposals next week.

They are certain to be the subject of heated debate at a Department of Land Affairs consultative conference on land reform which is scheduled to take place next week.

The NLC document argues that restitution should not be limited to claims by people who lost land because of apartheid laws,

but should include people who lost land rights through farm evictions, corruption and maladministration.

It recommends financial institutions immediately foreclose on farmers who are bad debtors.

The government should use expropriation to provide arable land for redistribution.

"Most arable land is in the hands of white farmers, the majority of whom are unproductive," the NLC says.

It criticises the market-based land reform model favoured by the Department of Land Affairs.

"The market-based approach only caters for land demands backed by cash offerings. The NLC is opposed to this approach as it excludes the marginalised and destitute rural people who most need land."

"All this suggests to me..."



IN DISPUTE... the Rust de Winter project Picture: CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE

ST 27/8/95 (21) (3)

Restitution claims pose threat to model land plan

By CHIARA CARTER

RIVAL land claims have stalled a multi-million rand Gauteng presidential lead project intended to be a model for land development countrywide.

Acting district manager for the Rust de Winter Land Reform Pilot Project, Nomaxabiso Luzipo, said redevelopment plans for about 38 000ha of prime agricultural land north of Pretoria could not proceed until land claims made by rival groups in the area had been settled.

The Rust de Winter Land Pilot Programme was announced on May 27 by the Minister of Land Affairs Mr Derek Hanekom and is being co-ordinated by the Gauteng Department of Planning, Environment and Works.

R35-million has been earmarked for several development projects in an area stretching between the N1 north of Pretoria and Witbank, including Rust de Winter.

Miss Luzipo said that, since Minister Hanekom's announcement, several groups had indicated that they intended making restitution claims for land in the Rust de Winter

area. The project would not proceed until these claims were settled, all stakeholders were identified and poverty levels were determined in the area.

Miss Luzipo said the R35-million grant could meanwhile be used elsewhere if any other project was identified.

She said her department intended speeding up the restitution process.

Land in the Rust de Winter area was meanwhile being leased on a temporary basis to five groups who met regularly in the project's forum.

They are the Litho tribe cattle farmers, the Manala tribe, a group of farm workers called the Vuka Uzenzela and a black farmer who had been leasing land for several years from the Department of Agriculture.

Miss Luzipo said another group, the Kekana, were not yet part of the forum but had indicated they intended claiming land at Rust de Winter.

There was also conflict over people living on land which had been demarcated for other groups.

Land tax irresponsible, says union

Louise Cook

GOVERNMENT should improve its existing tax collection system rather than impose an "irresponsible and ill-considered" land tax with a small income potential, the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) said in preliminary submission to the subcommittee of the Katz Commission on land and agricultural tax.

It claimed that the recoverable amount from a land

BD 28/8/95

tax was about R400m.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom had asked the Katz commission to investigate the introduction of a land tax to generate income for infrastructural development of rural areas.

The SAAU said: "By merely improving the collection ability of the existing tax administration, the objectives of the RDP, including the expansion of access to agricultural land, can be achieved without an increase in the total tax burden".

It told the subcommittee that a land tax may have a disruptive effect on the profitability of farmers, the object of the tax was possibly of a "non-fiscal rather than a fiscal nature" and it had frequently failed in other countries because of poor land evaluation methods.

"Apparently the proven degree of failure, which is a worldwide phenomenon, is conveniently ignored in SA because of politically expedient motives."

SAAU chief economist Koos du Toit said that the total value of commercial agricultural land, including non-separable improvements such as dams and boreholes, was R50bn.

"A land tax, introduced at 4%, could theoretically generate R2bn in tax a year. But at this rate, farmers' financial viability would be threatened. In order to be fair, the tax would have to apply to tribal and communal land as well. The proposed tax would seriously jeopardise new entrants into the land market."

Du Toit said the state would generate a maximum of R200m if the proposed tax was imposed at 1%.

But administrative costs of about R300m would render this a "waste of time".

The union said in its submission that about R9bn in tax, interest and penalties had been owed to the Receiver at the end of September 1994.

A total of 150 000 VAT audits had been in arrears at the time, the union said.

(3)

Hanekom 'impressed' by free-market Chile

(3) 10/29/89
Louise Cook

AGRARIAN reform policies in Chile which had contributed substantially to the country's 6% growth rate could be applied in SA, especially in agricultural marketing, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

Hanekom and a five-man delegation of agricultural marketing experts returned yesterday from a fact-finding mission on deregulated markets in Chile.

Chile used a free-market system without statutory controls over the marketing of agricultural produce.

Hanekom said in an interview the delegation had been impressed by the benefits of deregulation.

"Chile's agricultural sector earned 16% of its foreign earnings and contributed 8% to its gross domestic product — nearly double compared with the sector in SA."

The Chilean commercial farmers' union supported deregulation and there was no enforced membership of marketing agencies. However, the Chilean govern-

ment was improving export quality control to acquire uniform standards.

"The government now sees its responsibility in ensuring quality is maintained consistently. It is moving to get the different agencies to enforce uniform export standards. Any producer who is unhappy with one agency is free to join another or start up his own," said Hanekom.

In SA the draft Marketing of Agricultural Products Bill provided for the perpetuation of the single-channel marketing system on citrus and deciduous fruit and maize exports.

This meant farmers would still be prevented from finding overseas markets of their choice and be compelled to market exports through Outspan, Unifruco and the Maize Board.

Agriculture standing committee on agriculture chairman Janet Love said SA should move beyond the marketing strategy where small-scale and emerging farmers sold produce on the roadside to finding new markets for them.

Any land reform programme must ensure that the needs of the landless are met,
writes Brendan Pearce

National Land Committee presents its vision

(3) ~~2~~ star 29/8/95

Our close links with the landless communities puts our organisation in a unique position to influence policy initiatives in the interests of our constituency. The NLC believes that the basic standpoint of any land reform programme should be integrated and holistic to ensure that the needs of the landless are met and to promote economic and social justice.

The NLC's Land Reform Policy Proposal is the network's first attempt to put to paper a comprehensive approach to land reform; and to examine our role in this process. The proposal is based on the premise that land reform should be the foundation of any rural restructuring programme, and should achieve the following objectives:

- Redress historical injustices;
- Restructure land-based power relations;
- Alleviate rural poverty;
- Contribute to economic growth; and
- Create long term stability.

The National Land Committee (NLC) argues that in SA, like all normal societies, possession of a piece of

land should be regarded as a basic human right. However, colonial conquests and apartheid oppression have always made it effectively impossible for black South Africans to own land. However, through decades of resistance, the new era dawned, and the Government of National Unity came to power. As expected, the ANC-led Government has affirmed its commitment to redressing the imbalances of the past. It has already taken some initiative towards land reform processes, for which it must be commended. The NLC will officially release its land reform policy proposals on August 29 1995.

Although the NLC and the Department of Land Affairs agree on some areas, our policy proposals point to several critical areas of differences. The following are some of the critical areas of differences, also covered in our policy proposal document:

- The Government's current approach to land reform is market-based and demand-driven. While the NLC acknowledges the limited role of the market in the land reform process, we are of the strong view that the market forces per se fall short as a mechanism for equitable land re-

distribution. It is common knowledge that markets are never truly free. They are bound by social, political and economical power relations which determine the way they are regulated.

Accordingly, we are opposed to the notion of a "willing buyer-willing seller" because it places the landless communities at the mercy of land owners, who have themselves benefited from past injustices. The NLC's position is clear: the marginalised, destitute and landless rural communities should be the beneficiaries of the land reform processes.

In contrast the market-based approach, which is supported by our Government under pressure from the World Bank, will only cater for land demands backed by cash offerings. The marginalised, destitute and landless rural people cannot afford the artificially high market prices demanded by the land owners. This approach thus excludes the intended beneficiaries of land reform, who have the most need and legitimate demands for land.

The task facing the new democratically elected Government of redressing historical injustices is enormous.

And while concerns of some land owners may be understandable, they should not be allowed to dictate and determine land reform policy in SA. Already, some sections of the South African Agricultural Union who are already taking advantage of this approach by pushing up land prices. Some of the commercial farmers are using the flawed government approach as a way of getting rid of their heavy debts.

It is for this reason that the NLC has been persistently urging the Credit Board and other financial institutions to immediately foreclose on farmers who are bad debtors. These farmers have proved year after year to be wasteful of our financial, human and other resources. Accordingly, we are of the view that foreclosure of bad debts will not only contribute to economic growth but will also ensure that adequate land is available for purposes of equitable land redistribution.

This brings us to another critical area of difference between the NLC and the Government: expropriation. In terms of the property clause, Government will only be able to expropriate for "public purposes". This defi-

nition of public purpose excludes land reform.

The NLC argues that expropriation should be used as a tool to ensure that sufficient and arable land is available for redistribution. Most arable land is presently in the hands of white farmers. The Government has tacitly acknowledged the need for expropriation for purposes of land reform. We now challenge the Government to be bold enough and state their position publicly.

The last critical issue, relating to the above, is the scrapping of the property clause from the Interim Constitution. The NLC argues that it will be virtually impossible to implement land reform processes as long as this clause remains in our constitution. According to recent media reports we are however, pleased that the Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, now also supports our call for the scrapping of the property clause.

In conclusion, we hope that the NLC's land reform policy proposal will contribute to, and stimulate constructive public debate on viable land reform options.

■ *Brendan Pearce is director of the National Land Committee.*

R87-m aid for farmers

③ Somerset

By Abdul Milazi 30/3/95
Labour Reporter

STOCK farmers in South Africa will receive R87 million in aid from the Government to help them deal with the current drought in some parts of the country, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday.

According to the department's assistant director, Mr Daan Liebenberg, the fund is part of the Government's Disaster Drought Assistance Scheme announced in 1990. Liebenberg said funds would only be available to stock farmers who had registered with the department within the past three years. Farmers who registered less than a year ago would not be considered.

"We are reopening the scheme to accommodate those areas which were not included in the scheme in the past," Liebenberg said.

So far more than 10 000 stock farmers have registered for financial assistance from the Government. Liebenberg said farmers should apply at their local magistrate's office.

Areas which are eligible for financial aid are Northern Cape's Prieska ward 1, 2 and 3, Calvinia, the northern and south-western parts of Brandvlei, Upington and some parts of Mier. In the Eastern Cape, only Queenstown and Tarkastad, excluding Suurfontein and Golden Valley, are eligible. Marquard in the Free State and Murraysburg in Western Cape are also eligible.

Areas where the financial benefits have been withdrawn are Victoria West, parts of Louis Trichardt, Phalaborwa and Potgietersrus.

Agriculture told to stand in line

Louise Cook

NATION-building was as important as the economy and the agricultural sector had to realise that it was only one of a number of groups needing attention, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

Mandela told an SA Agriculture Union delegation government had a duty to deliver on election promises made to the poor, and that the agricultural sector should become "seriously and effectively" involved in nation-building.

The union was not the only impatient group expecting problems to be resolved.

Mandela said he was in a majority party with a mandate to improve the lives of the people. Jobs, houses, hospitals, electricity, clean water and education had to be provided.

He assured the union, though, that he was sensitive to its concerns and that the interests of SA minority groups would be protected.

The union had called for the talks to table a memorandum on food imports, land reform, law and order, labour legislation, land tax and deregulation of agricultural marketing.

The memorandum accused government of not responding to serious import control problems within the customs and excise department after business and organised labour submitted proposals 14 months ago.

"In the meantime it is impossible to calculate the cost to the SA eco-

nomy and government due to this lack of effective control at our borders," the memorandum stated.

Mandela refused to be drawn on any of the issues. He criticised the union for not making the memorandum available before the meeting.

"Then I could have given a considered response," he said.

SAAU president Boet Fourie said after the meeting talks centred mainly on the "negative influence of food imports and its effect on the viability of the commercial sector".

He said Mandela had called for a cabinet committee consisting of the agriculture, land affairs, labour, trade and industry and law and order ministers to report back to him on the issues.

Fourie welcomed assurances that farmers' concerns would be addressed and that Mandela acknowledged the necessity of an economically sound agricultural sector.

"The sector would continue to contribute to nation-building and working towards the RDP's aims," he said. The memorandum reaffirmed that the union wanted a judicial commission to probe the draft Land Reform Bill (Labour Tenants).

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom dismissed this, however, in an interview after the meeting.

Hanekom said the union had been consulted on the contents of the Bill before it was tabled in Parliament and had agreed at the time to its present format.

(3) M 30/8/95

- (1) Whether the Government has received any applications for funding for the staging of the Africa Cup soccer tournament; if so, (a) how much funding was applied for and (b) from whom were the applications received;
- (2) whether such applications have received any consideration; if not, why not; if so, with what result?

N1115E

The MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) An amount of R8 336 086 was requested from the State.
- (b) The South African Football Association (SAFA).
- (2) Yes. A grant of R8.0 m was approved by Cabinet.

Football planning/strategy commission: establishment

*16. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Whether he was recently involved in the establishment of a football planning and strategy commission; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) why and (b) what other organisations were involved;
- (2) whether the National Professional Soccer League (NPSL) participated in the establishment of this commission; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the NPSL will serve on the commission; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1116E

The MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION:

- (1) No. Following public calls for football in this country to get its act together, four members of the South African Football Association (SAFA) and four members of the National Soccer League (NSL) constituted a Commission with the objective of improving the image of the sport in the country.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Only SAFA and the NSL.
- (2) No. The National Professional Soccer League (NPSL) is not as yet part of SAFA.
- (3) No. The NPSL is as yet not part of SAFA.

*17. Mr W A BOTHA—Justice† [Question standing over.]

Rights to land in rural areas: legislation/loans

*18. Mr A F MAHLALELA asked the Minister of Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether he intends introducing legislation with a view to enabling persons in the rural areas to acquire and hold rights to land which is now entrusted to traditional leaders; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) whether any steps have been taken or are to be taken to enable persons in rural communities to have access to loans for development and/or housing schemes; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether, with reference to the provisions of sections 26(1) and 28(1) and (2) of the Constitution, he will make a statement on the present ownership arrangement in this regard?

Hansard 30/8/95 N1118E
The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes. Persons in rural areas do presently acquire and hold rights in land which is entrusted to traditional leaders. They hold customary law rights as well as statutory rights (such as the Permission to Occupy certificates which were issued under R188). I am however concerned that the level of security of tenure of the rural people holding such rights is inadequately protected, and have for this reason proposed protective legislation in the short term. I am also embarking on a consultative process in order to establish policy around introducing the mechanisms necessary to provide security of tenure in the long term.
- (a) Legislation to effect the short term provision of tenure security was approved by Cabinet in June 1995 and

will be introduced in Parliament during February 1996.

- (b) The proposed Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act will be introduced in Parliament shortly. It will not create "new" rights, and is merely a protective mechanism. It aims to protect insecure informal rights in land, which are mostly *de facto* and not *de jure*, and was drafted in response to problems arising from the chaos which exists in rural land administration. The purpose of the legislation is therefore to protect those people who would have had secure rights, if not so prevented by discriminatory land laws. Women particularly are granted protection they did not previously enjoy.

Amendments to the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act (Act 112 of 1991) will be introduced in Parliament during the session thereof in February 1996. This Act provides for the upgrading of various forms of so-called "lesser" land rights into individual ownership. Upgrading in rural areas will be regulated in order to prevent the destruction of the customary landholding systems or the pre-emption of tenure reform.

- (2) Yes. There are two identifiable steps. The first step lies in the tenure reform measures to be taken as I have already described. Those persons in rural communities who obtain title to their landholdings should be in a far stronger position to obtain loans from banks. Other measures which give rural people greater security of tenure, not necessarily in the form of freehold, will also enhance their ability to obtain loans.

The second part of improving the position of rural dwellers to obtain loans lies in the anticipated final report of the Strauss Commission (The Commission of Inquiry into the Provision of Rural Financial Services). The report should be presented to Cabinet at the end of the year or early next year.

Rural development requires that rural people have access to a wide range of financial services, including credit, savings facilities and transmission services.

These services are however not accessible to the majority of the people in rural areas. The inability to access loan finance for land acquisition by new entrants to the land market and for the settlement needs of the rural poor is a constraint in the land reform process.

To this end, the terms of reference of the above-mentioned Commission are to investigate the provision of rural financial services, within the context of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), and make recommendations for policy, legislative and institutional measures to improve financial services for rural households, farmers and other entrepreneurs.

An interim report, which focuses on the credit requirements in respect of land reform pilot projects has been submitted by the Commission. It makes recommendations regarding ways of leveraging funds earmarked as Land Acquisition Grants for the pilot programme and considers the use of leveraging and mortgage guarantee or indemnity instruments as part of the longer term land reform programme.

- (3) Yes. The Constitutional Assembly is presently considering whether the provisions of section 26(1) and section 28(1) and (2) of the Interim Constitution should be incorporated in the final Constitution.

There is no doubt that property rights need effective legal protection, in such a way that transformation and land reform are not prevented. The question is how this should be achieved. As the Honourable Member will know, I have previously made public my personal view that there is no need for a separate property clause in the final Constitution, as property rights are adequately protected by the common law and by other provisions of the Constitution, for example the right to equality before the law, the right to security of the person, and the right to administrative justice. I said that if the final Constitution does contain a property clause, it should be worded in such a way that it does not prevent transformation and land reform. It is for the Constitutional Assembly to decide how property rights should be protected in future.

Govt land reform rejected

Louise Cook

(3)

THE National Land Committee, representing 300 landless communities, yesterday called for the removal of the property clause from the interim constitution and rejected government's market-based land reform programme which operated on the basis of willing buyer-willing seller.

The committee said in its policy document, released in Johannesburg, that land reform should not be "limited" by market-based reforms and by retaining the property clause in the interim constitution.

Committee deputy chairman Abe Dithake said private property ownership hampered the provision of land to the very poor. He proposed that "enabling legislation" should replace the property clause.

The committee also criticised market-based reforms, saying that they had been adopted under pressure from the World Bank and financial institutions.

"While the market has a limited role to play in the land reform process, it falls short as a mechanism for equitable redistribution. A market-

driven approach presumes existing wealth as a key entry requirement.

"Black people have been prevented from accumulating both land and capital and are therefore ill-equipped to enter the free market. Given the current level of poverty and the absence of asset bases, at least 20% of the population would be excluded from any programme that requires their financial contribution."

The very poor could not afford government's subsidy schemes and land should be given free of charge, Dithake said.

The land affairs department wanted to spend R15 000 a family on infrastructural development, as part of government's land restitution process, but Dithake rejected the department proposal.

"Government must use its expropriation powers to free enough land. The R15 000 subsidy should rather be used for development projects for new farmers," he said.

Government is to hold a special conference on land reform this week to thrash out a White Paper based on inputs from all roleplayers, including the committee and farmers.

Taxi rank cost is forced up

by squatters

ARG 30/8/95

Municipal Reporter

SQUATTERS who took over land earmarked for a new minibus taxi rank at Site C in Khayelitsha have pushed up the price of the project by about R400 000.

A report to the Cape Metropolitan Council reveals that the estimated cost was R1,8 million but a delay in construction has increased this to an estimated R2,2 million.

The original estimate was made about 16 months ago, but work could not proceed after squatters moved in.

The land is still occupied by squatters but residences alongside the N2 have been earmarked for the occupants.

The report says: "The Lingeletu West Transitional Council intends moving the people to this area shortly before the contract is awarded.

"Apparently it is inadvisable to move the people too soon as the taxi terminus site could be invaded once again before the contractor is able to commence his operation."

Prepaid water meters proposed

Staff Reporter (3)

PREPAID water meters should be combined with those already used for electricity to allow developing communities to control their water consumption, it has been proposed.

Researchers from the Water Research Commission said it was necessary for the private sector to develop a single unit for electricity and water prepayment. ARG 30/8/95

This would ensure people in developing communities paid for water through an acceptable system because they were "highly suspicious of account systems, especially when the meter is not read regularly" and debt for water payments continued to rise.

Rail line planned

Municipal Reporter

A RAILWAY line for commuters living north of Milnerton is being planned.

This was confirmed by Metro manager Andre Harrison, who said R25 000 had been set aside for the conceptual planning of the line, which would run along the current Atlantis goods line.

But the new line was unlikely to operate for another five years.

Committee urges drastic land reforms

Star 30/8/95

(3) (20)

■ BY MONDLI MAKHANYA
POLITICAL REPORTER

The National Land Committee (NLC) yesterday released its policy proposals advocating drastic land reforms, including land expropriation and the placing of a ceiling on land holdings.

The proposals will be tabled at a two-day Gov-

ernment-sponsored land policy conference which begins tomorrow.

The meeting is expected to result in intense debate as commercial farmers have vowed to oppose the plans.

The proposals made by the influential coalition of rural organisations advocate the giving away of under-utilised state land

to landless communities, a land tax to force farmers to use land more productively and the forcing of financial institutions to foreclose on farmers who are bad debtors.

The coalition also advocates independent valuations of farmland which the Government wishes to buy from farmers.

The NLC says the land reform programme should be supported by the State with money grants and subsidies.

The subsidies would operate on a sliding scale in terms of which the higher the land value and the higher the socio-economic status of the recipient, the lower the subsidy to be received.

Black farmers lash out over aid fund

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

BLACK FARMERS yesterday accused the Department of Agriculture of discriminating against blacks in their allocation of the Drought Relief Scheme funds.

This follows a recent announcement by the Department of Agriculture that farmers countrywide would receive R87 million in aid from the Government, to help them deal with the current drought in some parts of the country.

A spokesman for the department, however, explained that the funds would only be available to stock farmers who had registered with the department within the past three years.

Sowetan 31/8/95 (3)
Department accused of using Government relief scheme funds to help its white friends

Farmers who had registered less than a year ago would not be considered. Executive director of People's Agricultural Development (PAD) Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe said the move was a deliberate effort by the department to exclude blacks who only came into main stream farming in 1994.

Nefolovhodwe said: "Black farmers only began registering after the April elections last year.

"The Department of Agriculture is aware of this, which is why it made such a decision. They only want to help their white friends with Govern-

ment money. The Department of Agriculture should understand that farmers from the black community were excluded from this subsidy during the apartheid era. It is only now that they are beginning to come in because of the new situation created after April 1994."

According to the department's assistant director, Mr Daan Liebenberg, the fund is part of the Government's Disaster Drought Assistance Scheme, announced in 1990.

He said the scheme was reopened to accommodate those areas that were not included in the the past.

• • • • •

Town planning may change

Louise Cook

② 000 3/18/95
A RECOMMENDATION by the Gauteng agriculture and conservation ministry that agricultural interests be represented on local government structures in Gauteng could result in a major change to town planning policies.

Representatives of government and the private sector, as well as academic experts in agriculture and town planning, started drawing up the report last year. The report was aimed at facilitating policy for agriculture and conservation in Gauteng.

Present town and regional planning policies lacked criteria and standards for the productive use of agricultural land adjoining built-up urban areas. The urbanisation process had been governed by local au-

thorities who had lacked an agricultural component in the structures they ran, the report said.

"A pertinent issue in farming development in the Gauteng area is the apparent conflict between agriculture, urbanisation and environmental conservation. This conflict urgently needs to be resolved."

Management of the various land uses needed to be streamlined and the agricultural base in the province needed expansion. The report said the importance of smallholder farming and home food growing was underestimated and should be encouraged.

"Agri-business in the Gauteng province contributes substantially to the GDP of the province and the sector generated the highest employment multipliers of all the sectors."

Conference to discuss land reform

Stav 3/18/95

(3) (EP)

■ BY MONDLI MAKHANYA
POLITICAL REPORTER

Over 1 000 farmers, peasants, unionists and politicians gather at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park today for a two-day conference that will lay the foundation for South Africa's land reform programme.

The National Land Policy conference, due to be opened by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, will help formulate the White Paper on Land.

Clashes are expected between agricultural unions and delegations from rural communities and trade unions over aspects of land reform. These include the granting of permanent tenure and access to land ownership to farm workers, and their right to strike.

Traditional leaders are expected to voice their opposition to the democratisation of rural local government and reform plans which take allocation powers away from them.

The National Land Committee, a rural coalition, will table its controversial Land Reform Proposals document, which proposes land expropriation and the scrapping of the property clause in the constitution.

- (1) with reference to her reply to Question No 10 in the National Assembly on 21 September 1994, (a) how many people are estimated to live or work within the 16 km radius of the Koeberg nuclear power-station and (b) (i) how many potassium iodate tablets are currently available for distribution in the event of an accident at the power-station, (ii) where are they stored and (iii) how will these tablets be distributed should the need arise;
- (2) whether potassium iodate tablets have an indefinite shelf-life; if not, (a) what is the shelf-life of these tablets, (b) on what date was the current supply of tablets manufactured, (c) what arrangements exist for the (i) replenishment of these tablets on a regular basis and (ii) manufacture of additional tablets if required and (d) what is the estimated cost of maintaining a supply of these tablets?

S156E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

- (1) (a) 75 000.
(b) (i) 1 540 000.
(ii) The Cape Metropolitan Council holds 90% of the stock, and the remainder is available for distribution to Koeberg personnel and Robben Island inhabitants.
(iii) Distribution to the public is effected by the Civil Protection and Health Services staff of the Cape Metropolitan Council. Issue is provided for at distribution points and mass care centres at a recommended dosage of two tablets per person per day.
- (2) No.
(a) Three years.
(b) December 1994.
(c) (i) Replenishment is via procurement by Eskom to coincide with the expiry date of the previous stock.
(ii) Additional tablets may be obtained from known stockists or manufacturers in the United

States of America or the United Kingdom.

(d) R200 000.

Agricultural marketing boards94. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture: *(3) Hansard 30/5/95*

- (1) (a) How many agricultural marketing boards were in existence (i) in 1990 and (ii) as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) what percentage of agricultural production fell under the marketing boards (i) in 1990 and (ii) as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (c) what were the current total assets of each specified board still in existence as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) whether any of these boards (a) require compulsory membership by farmers falling under their control, (b) impose compulsory levies on farmers and (c) operate single channel marketing systems; if so, which boards in each case;
- (3) whether any representations have been received for the disbandment of any of the existing boards; if so, (a) from whom and (b) what was the response in each case;
- (4) whether any of these boards have introduced measures to deregulate themselves; if so, which boards?

S174E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) (a) (i) 21.
(ii) 15.
(b) (i) 1990 — 67,05%.
(ii) 1993 — 58,16%.
(c) The total assets of each specified board in existence as at the latest specified date are as follows:
Canning Fruit Board — R4,5 million.
Citrus Board — R18,2 million.
Cotton Board — R5,9 million.
Deciduous Fruit Board — R23,6 million.
Dried Fruit Board — R12,9 million.
Lucerne Seed Board — R3,9 million.

Maize Board — R14,2 million.
Meat Board — R160,7 million.
Milk Board — R1,1 million.
Mohair Board — R68,3 million.
Oilseeds Board — R15,9 million.
Sorghum Board — R0,185 million.
Tobacco Board — R3,6 million.
Wheat Board — R68,1 million.
Wool Board — R46,8 million.

NB: Assets include fixed assets (buildings), machinery and equipment, investments and current assets.

- (2) (a) No.
(b) Yes—all existing control boards impose compulsory statutory levies.
(c) Yes—the following single channel marketing systems are operated:
— Single-channel fixed price schemes for winter cereals (wheat, barley and oats).
— Single-channel pool schemes. Sunflower seed and Soya beans. Leaf tobacco. Deciduous fruit for export. Citrus fruit for export. Dried fruit.
- (3) No.
(a) and (b) Fall away.
- (4) Yes.
— The Citrus Board

The single-channel marketing arrangements for citrus fruit on the domestic market were abolished in favour of a free marketing system. The export of citrus fruit takes place according to a single-desk approach.

- The Cotton Board
Restrictive registration of cotton ginners was abolished.
- The Deciduous Fruit Board
The single-channel marketing arrangements for deciduous fruit on the domestic market were abolished.
- Lucerne Seed Board
The single-channel pool system was replaced by a surplus removal system.

— Maize Board

The single-channel fixed price marketing system was replaced with a new marketing system according to which maize will be freely traded in the domestic market without statutory price fixing.

— Meat Board

Restrictive registration of abattoir agents, butchers, general dealers, meat processors, hides and skin dealers as well as importers was abolished. The prohibition establishing controlled areas was repealed, making the freer movement of meat throughout the RSA possible. Control over meat products was scrapped.

— Mohair Board

The single-channel pool system was replaced with a surplus removal system.

— Oilseeds Board

The marketing of groundnuts no longer takes place through a single-channel pool system, but by way of a surplus removal system with voluntary pools.

— Sorghum Board

The floor price system has been replaced by a surplus removal system with voluntary pools.

— Wool Board

The single-channel pool scheme was abolished and replaced with a new scheme according to which wool is freely traded in the domestic market.

Convicted persons released before completion of sentences

99. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

Whether any persons convicted of violent crimes and sentenced to more than six years in prison were released before the completion of their sentences in (a) 1993 and (b) 1994; if so, how many in each case?

S180E

AGRICULTURE GENERAL

1995

SEPT — DEC

The Organisation of Livestock Producers plans to challenge the Agricultural Marketing Bill in the Constitutional Court on the grounds that it violates freedom of economic activity and of association.

The body has taken legal opinion and is preparing its case even though the final version of the Bill has not been released.

"We have to bring this matter to a head," says executive director Nils Dittmer. "The draft Bill, according to our legal opinion, is unconstitutional, as is the Marketing Act. We cannot wait for ever to have our constitutional rights enforced. So we are starting to prepare a case."

Dittmer sees no need for a Marketing Act; so it does not matter what the Bill finally looks like. Not that the organisation wants deregulation overnight. "We would be prepared to live with some controls provided these are phased out over a predetermined period."

Opposition political parties are eyeing the case with interest. If the organisation suc-

BUSINESS

ceeds with its constitutional challenge, land reform legislation, still in the discussion phase, may be next in line for a court challenge. Though the constitution provides for redressing instances of historical discrimination, the extent of the redress will almost certainly have to be decided by the Constitutional Court.

The SA Futures Exchange (Safex), which recently launched an agricultural commodities market, says that it will also challenge the constitutionality of the Bill should it allow for price fixing.

"Price fixing, whether through the operation of floor price schemes or other means, interferes with free market price determination," says Safex agricultural commodities division GM John Wixley.

"I believe there is a need for some kind of regulatory framework but I do not believe we need a Marketing Act to control the markets. We need legislation to protect markets in times of crisis such as drought, because agriculture in the rest of the world is so heavily subsidised, and to assist small-scale farmers. Without some form of protection, our agricultural markets could easily be destroyed."

Farmers in the US get deficiency payments from the Department of Agriculture when prices drop below a predetermined level. This system does not interfere in free market price determination and US farmers have become adept at using call options to lock in deficiency payments. Wixley believes a similar system may be the answer for SA's agricultural markets.

The draft is now before the national standing committee on agriculture. Committee chairman Janet Love says there is nothing to stop the committee changing the final form of the Bill, which has enraged parts of the agricultural industry by carrying on with many of the controversial practices of the past such as compulsory levies and control boards.

The organisation's effort is likely to become a constitutional test case for group rather than individual rights. Some sections of agriculture believe that though the Bill provides for price fixing and single-channel marketing, the procedure involved in implementing the schemes is more accountable and consultative than before. Producers have only three of the 10 representatives on the Agricultural Marketing Council. Labour is not represented.

The Bill enables national producer or consumer organisations to receive levy financing only for certain expenses, which is



Dittmer . . . draft Bill unconstitutional

a departure from the present legislation. Organisations which use their financing will have to submit their accounts to the Auditor-General.

Those who favour keeping things as they are say unbridled free markets will lead to concentration, with a few large producers controlling supplies and manipulating the prices of key commodities. But Wixley says corporate concentration is greater on the JSE than anywhere else and stock prices fluctuate freely and transparently.

"We already have a high level of concentration in agriculture because of past controls. The argument that controls lead to concentration is bogus," he says.

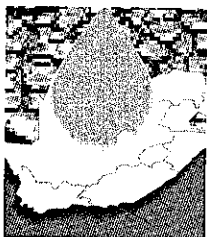
Dittmer says the debate over the efficacy of agricultural controls is irrelevant: "In terms of the draft Bill, the Minister of Agriculture retains his powers to appoint people to the national marketing council. We need no such council, nor control boards and price fixing."

WATER

Kader Asmal's difficult choices

FM 11/9/95

He has to reconcile inexorably growing demand with scarce supplies (3) ~~(4)~~



SA is a dry country. Occasionally it may seem wet; in some places, it may even appear unusually damp. But these are exceptions.

Essentially, SA is arid and the prevailing colour, especially

in its central and northern areas, is brown. There are few rivers and no great mountains with eternal snows trickling their moisture into unending streams.

The most frightening of the many statistics for the future SA are those related to water. There shouldn't be any doubt the country is facing a water shortage crisis of serious dimensions. Without desalination or recycling, SA is likely to deplete available water resources within the next 15 years.

The main cause of this alarming descent into thirst is the rapidly expanding population. The people explosion — effectively at a rate which will double the number in 15 years — means that by 2010, an impossible 50bn m³ a year will be needed. Expressed differently, this quantity of water is the equivalent of drowning the entire Gauteng region in a lake about 3 m deep.

Most of SA's water comes from rivers fed by rainfall of less than 470 mm a year (this is the average annual rainfall though there are wide variations). Gauteng, the industrial heartland, gets rather more — on average about 600 mm a year.

And Gauteng is where the real problem is concentrated. The smallest province, it has the second highest population — 7m in the 1991 census (which no-one believes), thought to be 9m now. This is where 40% of national GDP is derived and where 27% of jobs are located.

According to the Central Statistical Service, in each year since 1991, the population of the province has increased at a rate greater than 2%. This is Africa voting with its feet — marching away from economi-

cally desolated regions to the only area of the subcontinent which offers even half a chance for a decent life.

The trouble is that Gauteng cannot cope. In only one year in the past 10 has demand for water supplied by Rand Water actually declined; over the decade, requirements have risen 66% to 2,83m m³ a day.

As temperatures rise with the advent of spring, so Rand Water's reserves look increasingly feeble. The dams which together constitute Gauteng's supply resource can store at full capacity 48 months' supply; this year, they are down to 15 months' and falling fast. Put another way, the Vaal Dam is 16% full (Sterkfontein is 57%), though the Vaal is now falling at a rate of 1% a week.

There are good reasons for Gauteng's emergence as the hub of SA's economic life. Every pupil knows the discovery of gold provided the early stimulus. It is serviced by an exceptional rail and road network which links it with the main ports; plentiful coal powers the thermal stations which surround the Reef; other essential raw materials such as iron, copper and chrome are nearby; labour is abundant.

The limiting constraint on the region's continued economic growth is water. Contrary to prevailing wisdom, the biggest user

of water is not industry. It is the residential sector, which swallows 65%.

Wastage is another vital factor. As British users have recently discovered, their own recently privatised water authorities now admit that as much as 20% of water supplied may simply leak away, through millions of holes and faulty connections.

Rand Water CE Vincent Bath says many municipalities in the area served by his authority admit to wastage of as much as 15%-20% and even more.

Faced with the inevitable, the Ministry of Water Affairs called for savings of 20% in monthly consumption, from May.

Rand Water passed this on to its primary users, the municipalities, with little success. To enforce it, a surcharge system is being applied. The amount not saved in August will be penalised to the extent of a surcharge double the usual tariff; failure to save the requirement in September will attract a trebled charge; in October, quadruple; in November, five times.

In December? "We will review the situation when we get there," says an unsmiling Bath. It is no joke.

In the short term, much depends on the extent and duration of the summer rains. And there may be some good news. Deputy

director of the University of the Witwatersrand's climatology research unit Simon Mason believes indicators for the approaching season are better than in the past three years. El Nino, the feared southern oscillation which occurs when water off the South American west coast warms up, is unlikely to develop this season.

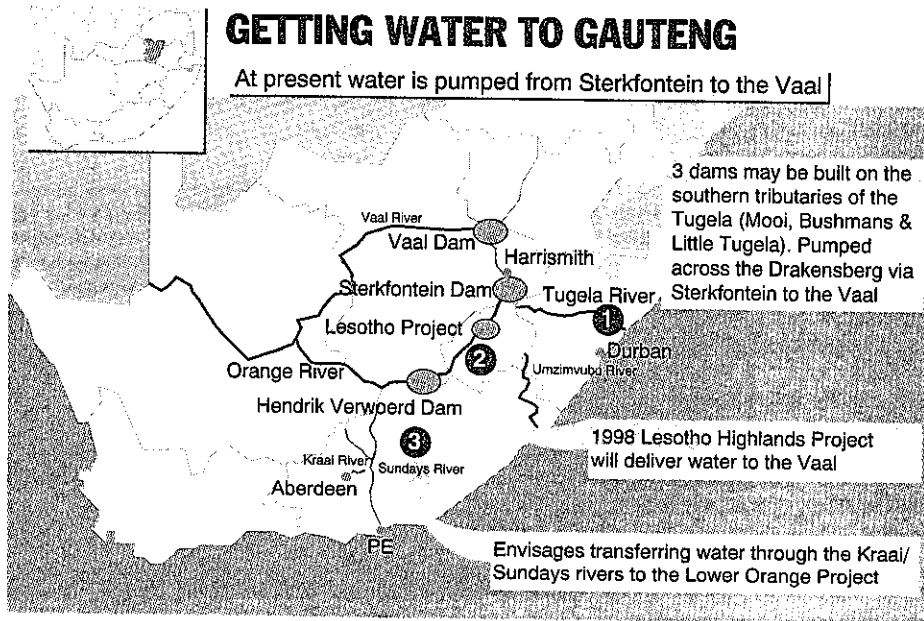
Over the next five years, however, he says SA can expect more spells of drought. The now recognised 18-year weather cycle is said to get "stuck" every



Asmal

GETTING WATER TO GAUTENG

At present water is pumped from Sterkfontein to the Vaal



REUNERT

Overcoming a shadowy image

Since the unbundling from Barlow Rand, the focus has been sharpened even further

"All power is of one kind, a sharing of the nature of the world," said Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1860. The soul of Reunert — if a company may be said to have such a thing — is its involvement with power, in both the literal and metaphorical sense.

In its modern incarnation, it is a market leader in the SA telecommunications, electrical, cable, defence and consumer electronics markets. Its stated goal is to be a "worldwide force" supplying products for the generation, transmission, control and deployment of electrical power.

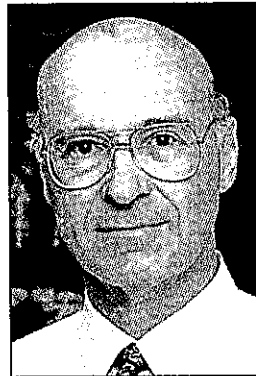
For investors wanting a blue-chip electronics counter, Reunert is one of the most substantial. By turnover, it is the biggest in the sector — R3,5bn in 1994 and expected to be almost R4,6bn in financial 1995.

Reunert's public image, however, is shadowy, opening a gap between perception and reality. This is illustrated by the negative reaction when it reorganised its telecommunications interests last year to improve efficiency. Interim results in March vindicated the decision as restructured Telephone Manufacturers of SA (TMSA) and Siemens Telecommunications (Sietel) forged ahead. But why did the analysts get it wrong?

There was less reaction when the cable interests had their turn earlier this year — perhaps because the telecommunications move worked. Also, the rationale for reorganising the cable companies was clear: to streamline the manufacturing processes and thereby gain economies of scale.

The high-volume, continuous-flow processes used to make copper telecoms cable and low-voltage PVC cable are now combined at Rosslyn Cables, which was sold to ATC. Rosslyn in turn sold its mains power cable manufacturing capacity — based on discontinuous batch lots — to African Cables. ATC is owned by GEC (51%), Reunert (effective 38,5%) and Siemens. African Cables was largely held by Reunert and Siemens, but GEC and some minority shareholders also had small stakes.

GEC sold its share in African Cables, and Reunert and Siemens are buying out minorities. Another reason for cleaning house was to improve profits and productivity at African Cables, which has suffered from a lack of capital investment. R41m is being injected in new plant and information systems. Executive director and African Cables



Parker



Riley

MD Glyn Riley says the upgrade will boost competitiveness locally and abroad.

Reunert is just completing its second year of independence from Barlow, which acquired control in 1980 when the then Reunert & Lenz's management sought protection from the threat of hostile takeovers which the Reunert family interests were not large enough to prevent. The group became Reunert Ltd and underwent major restructuring in the next decade.

In 1992, Barlow Rand decided to unbundle some of its disparate interests, among them Reunert, which had picked up electronic, electrical and mechanical engineering facilities from Barlow. These upheavals may explain some of the confusion.

Operating profit for 1995 is forecast at around R383m. The share, at R18,25, is on

share price dropped in 1993 as the electronics sector went into convulsions; Post Office contracts were ending and there was a shake-out in the computer industry. Defence spending fell as local wars ended and reconciliation began.

In 1994, the share hit a low of R13,50 compared with its high of R17. Chairman Clive Parker attributes the drop to "crowd psychology" as the market panicked — in Reunert's case, it would seem, unjustifiably.

The numbers support Parker. During the recession of the early Nineties, Reunert produced steady growth in

turnover and attributable profit. In 1991, attributable profit grew only 1,8% but in 1992 it rose 24% and in 1993, it was up 17,2%.

In 1994, the group was mildly criticised for being too conservative in its predictions as profit shot up 39%. In 1992, there was a R200 000 loss from associate companies, but this was reversed in 1993 and became a R13,4m profit in 1994.

Reunert has kept a strong balance sheet, with good cash flow and low debt.

The market reaction then, and the resultant halving of the share price, could not have been based on fundamentals, which were favourable. More likely, concern arose from the source of profits: by the nature of its businesses, much of Reunert's product goes to government and semi-State bodies. There may also have been some worry about the effects of unbundling.

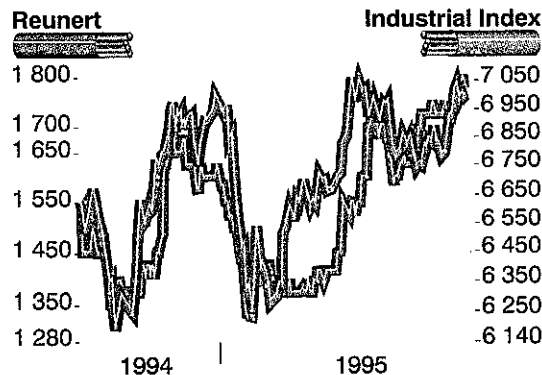
However, the unbundled Reunert was not much different in style or culture. There is a feeling in some quarters that Barlow's managers didn't really understand the group and did not add much — which, if true, means unbundling was probably for the best.

Parker, an old Barlow hand and Reunert chairman since 1988, is the exception. He insists the group was "clearly focused under Barlow," though restructuring has further sharpened the focus.

One noticeable consequence of unbundling has been to make the share more tradeable — financial director Dave Rawlinson estimates that about 20%-30% of Reunert shares now trade annually. "It helped the p/e ratio and market perception of the company. Management now has an added incentive to get things right."

Another consequence was to stimulate middle management, who have more autonomy but are also more immediately accountable.

The question of product markets is com-



INTERWEAVING VALUES

a multiple of 20,4, so it's among the better rated stocks in the electronics sector. By market capitalisation, now R3,6bn, Reunert is 28th biggest in the JSE industrial boards.

But need substance imply quality? The

Talks on property

LAND Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom warned yesterday that South Africa could find itself in a "constitutional crisis" if the property clause in the Constitution was not repealed.

Hanekom told the National Land Policy conference in Kempton Park that this provision in the Interim Constitution prevented the Government from responding to people's "popular demand and need for land", and was creating tensions that could precipitate a constitutional crisis.

He said it should be clear by now that the fears of "redistribution through

(3) ~~Sowetan~~ *Sowetan* 11/9/95
Hanekom recommends redistribution of land rather than restitution

confiscation" that necessitated the "property clause" were groundless.

He said property rights should be covered by common law and the Bill Rights.

"It is a deep irony that those who accepted the systematic denial and destruction of property rights of black South Africans should now pose as the defenders of property rights. It has not gone unnoticed that many became very

large landowners in the process," Hanekom said.

He said the Constitution should rather contain a constitutional right to land that would give ordinary people access to property.

The conference, which ends today, will come up with a blueprint for the White Paper on land to be tabled before Parliament early next year. — *Sowetan Correspondent.*

Act now to claim land in District 6

Political Correspondent

ANYONE with a claim to land in District Six and who has not yet applied, must do so within 90 days.

Regional commissioner Wallace Mgoqi says the commission on restitution of land rights wants to investigate all claims at the same time.

A notice inviting applications is published in the Government Gazette today. It applies only to those who have not yet lodged claims, says Mr Mgoqi.

Claims already lodged individually would automatically be regarded as part of the group claim.

The 1994 Land Rights Act empowers the commission to handle a number of claims for land in a certain area as a single group of claims.

This applies in particular to urban areas.

Inquiries to the regional land claims commissioner, Cape Town at 26 2930. Claims to be lodged at the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, Private Bag X8163, Cape Town 8000.

ARG 11/9/95

Warning of crisis if property clause stays

■ BY MONDLI MAKHANYA
POLITICAL REPORTER

South Africa could find itself in a constitutional crisis if the property clause in the interim constitution was not repealed, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom warned yesterday.

He told the national land policy conference in Kempton Park that this provision in the constitution prevented the Government from responding to people's "popular demand and need for

land" and was creating tensions that could precipitate a constitutional crisis.

He said it should be clear by now that the fears of "redistribution through confiscation" that had necessitated the property clause were groundless.

Property rights should be covered by common law and the Bill of Rights, he added.

"It is a deep irony that those who accepted the systematic denial and destruction of property

rights of black South Africans should now pose as the defenders of property rights. It has gone unnoticed that many became very large landowners in the process," said the minister.

The constitution should rather contain a constitutional right to land that would give ordinary people access to property.

Hanekom said the land reform programme should emphasise redistribution rather than restitution. The Government should play a leading role in bringing

(3) (71) AR 9/95
land onto the market through the release of State and privately owned land for use in redistribution. All land would be paid for by the recipient and, in the case of privately owned land, the Government would give itself the right to expropriate.

However, expropriation would be used only as a last resort.

The conference, which ends today, will come up with a blueprint for the White Paper on Land to be tabled before Parliament early next year.

Land right 'should be made birthright'

Drew Forrest

THE new constitution should enshrine the right to land as a "fundamental need and birthright of all South Africans", Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said at a national land conference last night.

He told 1000 delegates at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park a land right with real effect could be formulated without making false promises or "placing decisions about government spending in the hands of the courts".

The property clause in the constitution had to be framed so as not to entrench apartheid dispossession. He did not see the need for such a clause as adequate protection was given by common-law and constitutional provisions barring arbitrary and discriminatory state action.

In a veiled warning to the right wing, he said government's commitment to land reform should not be underestimated. It was offensive that those responsible for "the current disgraceful situation (are) complaining that we are trying to change it".

The conference is a major initiative to draw feedback on proposed land policy. A Green Paper is to follow, with a White Paper before Parliament early next year.

Hanekom said the state would not give away land or confiscate land for distribution. At the same time, it was not enough "to hope and pray that the market will do the job for us". The state would subsidise

the needy to help them acquire land and open up access to credit. Emerging policy favoured a rural basic needs grant similar to the housing subsidy. The size of the grant, the desirability of a means test and how the grant should be linked to the housing subsidy had yet to be resolved.

Hanekom conceded his frustration with the slow start to land restitution for those dispossessed under racial laws. However, a statutory framework, a land rights restitution commission and the Land Claims Court were now in place.

Defending the 1913 cut-off date for land claims, he said an open-ended process would lead to conflicting historical claims to the same land and promote ethnic mobilisation. If the process was overburdened, it would collapse.

The problem of urban claims — of which there were potentially huge numbers — could be met partly through group-based urban development, Hanekom said.

- Other policy goals included:
- Tenure reform to ensure that land rights did not depend "on the consent of someone with political power" to strengthen tenure where it was not legally recognised, and to make a range of secure tenure options available. Women who had rights only through male relatives had to be given independent access to land; and
 - A land valuation system which compensated owners fairly but averted the waste of public funds.

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elithini's UK trip

Cabinet decision

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R300m boosts budget to tackle water problem

Sello Motlhabakwe

NELSPRUIT — Mpumalanga province has received R300m from the Water Affairs department, boosting its R16m budget to tackle the water scarcity problem in that region.

Public works, roads and transport MEC Laxson Mathebula said the allocation was part of his department's public works programme.

The funds would be deployed to improve the capacity of the Driekoppies Dam along the SA-Swaziland border.

The dam, and efforts to improve road, rail and air links with Mozambique, tied in with recent Southern African Development Community (SADC) agreements for improved regional co-operation. Mathebula is in the Mpumalanga-SA delegation which held further talks on Friday with a Mozambican government group on the

upgrading of the Maputo corridor, a road through Mpumalanga to Maputo. The project, it is estimated, will cost R150m.

The talks would focus also on plans to dredge Maputo's harbour and proposed improvements to the railway link.

Mathebula unveiled about R30m in pilot public works projects last week. About 60 community representatives, who would control the projects, had been put on a capacity building course — partly because of irregularities uncovered in the feeding scheme.

Mathebula said discussions on a regional airport were progressing well. Six companies representing themselves and acting on behalf of town councils would make representations to a Cabinet committee tomorrow, he said.

Three towns are vying for the airport — Hazyview, Nelspruit and White River.

All land claims to 'receive attention'

Louise Cook

BD 4/9/95

(3)

an impediment to land reform."

He called for the wording of the clause, should it be included, to be phrased in a way that did not "impede land reform or development".

But Hanekom said communication between the Land Affairs Department and dispossessed communities had been particularly poor. People did not know how the programme worked and needed to be far better informed. He said officials from the department would in future visit more communities to explain procedures. Hanekom also said farmers at the conference had indicated their willingness to help with land reform.

Land affairs deputy minister Tobie Meyer warned against "social engineering" — forcing current land owners off property in favour of emerging farmers and communities if the clause was left out.

"SA needs a property clause for economic growth, but I agree that it must not impede land reform". He called for a distinction between land for settlement and land for farming as not everyone could farm.

Special advisor Geoff Budlinger supported the call for all claims to be dealt with. He said present property owners "who had paid" for their farms would be protected.

Other issues raised at the conference included financial constraints of the land reform programme and tenure reform. Government would produce a Green Paper for public comment this year.

GOVERNMENT would deal with all land claims, including those dating back to before 1913, but not necessarily through the restitution process, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said at the weekend.

Reacting to strong demand by communities to deal with all claims, he said at a special land reform conference at Kempton Park, the Land Claims Court and the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights were not geared to resolve "broad ancestral claims". These would be addressed through government's redistribution programme in terms of which various pilot programmes had been launched.

The Restitution of Land Rights Bill, which had already been passed by parliament, only provided for the Land Claims Court to rule on land taken from communities after 1913.

"Land claims going back to before 1913 had a strong message but not a strong case. They date back over a very long period. The Land Claims Court is not geared to deal with these claims. Restitution was meant for a particular piece of land lost at a particular time."

Hanekom also said the inclusion or otherwise of the property clause in the constitution was now in the hands of the Constitutional Assembly.

"I have no strong feelings on the matter other than insisting that it (the clause) is scrapped if it becomes



Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom at last week's land reform conference at Kempton Park. Ministerial secretary Barite Venter was one of the 1 000 delegates who attended.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

By Joe Mdhlola
Political Reporter

Landless to get R15 000

THE promise by the Department of Land Affairs that millions of landless people will each receive a R15 000 start-up towards land ownership was welcomed at a conference last week.

But delegates at the two-day Land Policy Conference in Kempton Park expressed fears that peasants in the hinterland may remain disadvantaged.

Can Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom's land policy go deeper and radically redress the injustices of the past?

One person at the conference who expressed scepticism about plans to better the lives of rural communities was Mrs Alina Maiyane, a field worker of the Matatiela-based Ncedi Rural Development Organisation.

"With the best of intentions, I do not think the land reform policy as conceived by the Government is really

geared towards bettering our lives," she said.

"I believe that for any land reform to be successful, it should be accompanied by development. For the Government to offer each rural homestead R15 000 will not really solve our problem."

Maiyane believes that suspicion and ignorance also contribute a great deal to underdevelopment in the rural area: "The chiefs and *indunas* in the rural area are ill-prepared for the drastic changes taking place.

"Democracy to most of our traditional leaders is seen as a surreptitious way of undermining their authority, hence their resistance to cooperate in the democratisation process."

The solution, insists Maiyane, does not lie in the Government doing things

without consulting traditional leaders: "To allay such fears, the Government must involve them in all processes that affect the people they lead."

However, Hanekom made it quite clear he was aware that for the land reform process to succeed, "all stakeholders" should be involved.

"The Government cannot carry out land reform on its own. Community organisations are vital to land reform," he said. However, Hanekom feels that even consultation has its weaknesses – it does not always satisfy "all the people, at all times".

"But our concern is to ensure that people who were deliberately disadvantaged by apartheid legislation are made better off," he stressed.

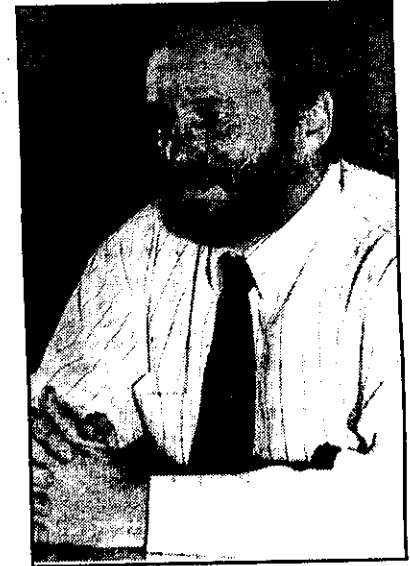
He assured the conference that the Restitution of Land Rights Act, recent-

ly passed in Parliament, would ensure that the skewed history of the past was corrected and that communities who were stripped of their land are able to reclaim it.

In addition, Hanekom said, Parliament had approved two Bills: the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill and the Communal Property Association Bill. The first Bill is aimed at protecting millions of people who do not have rights to the land they presently occupy.

The Communal Property Association Bill aims at giving everyone – including women – an opportunity to own land communally.

Hanekom made it clear that restitution has its limits – only land claims after 1913, when the Native Land Act was passed, will be addressed.



Derek Hanekom ... believes the Government cannot carry out land reform on its own.

Kraai cautions angry farmers

BD 6/9/95 (3)

Louise Cooke

PRETORIA — Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk warned Transvaal Agricultural Union members yesterday to contain their anger over government's food imports, land reform and labour policies.

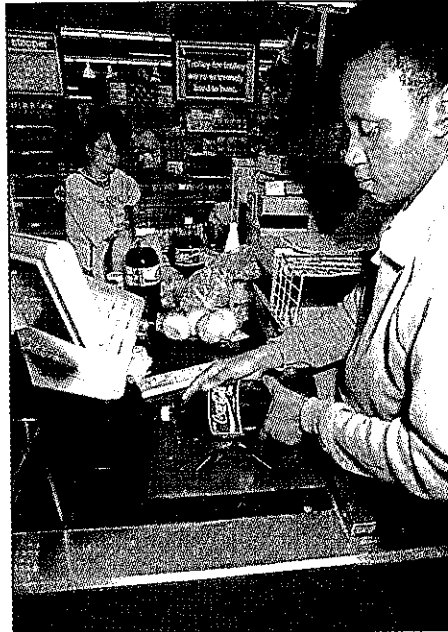
His warning came af-

ter the union adopted a motion at its congress to fight the policies.

A special task team is to be appointed to counteract the policies.

Farmers at the congress called for the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill to be referred to the World Court for arbitration.

"Judging from responses from local clients, and from Cary's retail customers in the US and Canada, the potential for sales is enormous," says Johnson. He expects to manufacture 1 000 Scorpion units a month — most being exported to the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Israel and Europe.



Point-of-sale . . . speeding up the checkout

Locally, PCM expects orders of between 1 000 and 2 000 Scorpion units between now and January. Metro Cash 'n Carry will be one of the first to install the system. Benefits include the small size of the unit and its "plug-and-play" design. Retailers can attach standard PC peripherals — a screen or printer — to Scorpion. The unit, in turn, can hook into the corporate computer network, linking Pos with back office inventory and accounts systems. ■

RETAILING⁽³⁾ Km 8/9/95
Sting in the tale

Who says local technology can't compete against the multinational giants? A small Pretoria-based computer company has proved otherwise.

Since it was formed 13 years ago, the PCM group has become a serious contender in the point-of-sale (Pos) retail market. Thanks to its UniTill retail systems — based on industry-standard PC technology rather than proprietary hardware — it has been able to fend off competition from large multinational suppliers such as ICL, Olivetti and NCR. Over the past two years, PCM has won multimillion-rand contracts from Foschini, Metro Cash 'n Carry and other major companies. It has also won a R500 000 contract to supply and install a full scanning UniTill Pos system to the Seychelles Marketing Board's supermarket in Victoria. With its latest invention, PCM expects exports to grow into a major part of its business.

PCM is marketing a Pos keyboard which houses a complete computer. "We built all the capabilities of the PC-based Pos system inside a keyboard developed by our Canadian partner, Cary International," says MD Peter Johnson.

Dubbed Scorpion, the keyboard can house a 486DX microprocessor, 64MB RAM (random access memory) and a disk drive no larger than a matchbox, which boasts a capacity of up to 400MB of permanent memory. Scaled-down versions of the system are also available. A patent on Scorpion is pending.

PCM will manufacture the unit on behalf of Cary and other international partners. Johnson says a deal with a big Israeli software house is imminent.

WATER AFFAIRS

R1bn dam project

(3)
FM 8/9/95

Price Waterhouse also lead manage the financing for Transvaal Sugar's R480m Komati mill and is also involved in putting together a R300m financing package for the Northern Transvaal Water Authority. ■

Price Waterhouse is to lead manage a R1,1bn finance package for the new Maguga Dam in Swaziland. And it intends to structure the finance in such a way as to allow local engineers and contractors to get the lion's share of the six-year project.

Price Waterhouse Corporate Finance CE Pieter van Huyssteen says the company will look for a combination of private-sector funding through the local money and capital markets; financing from the Development Bank of Southern Africa; aid monies and off-shore concessionary funding.

"The benefit of the last option is that there are no conditional contracting strings attached," he adds.

Many countries — such as Italy, France and Germany — provide offshore project funding on condition that their own contractors receive the major construction contracts.

In terms of a joint water agreement between SA and Swaziland, SA is liable for 60% of the dam's costs — and entitled to a similar percentage offtake of its water.

The Maguga Dam forms part of Phase 1 of the development of the Komati Basin, which includes the R480m Driekoppies Dam in SA. Launched in mid-1993 and targeted to begin storing water by the end of 1997, its construction costs are fully funded by the Development Bank. The 245m m³ capacity Driekoppies Dam, when completed, will be roughly the size of the Hartbeespoort Dam. Maguga will store about 323m m³.

"The key to the Maguga financing package will be the best combination of long-term private sector funding, concessionary funding and grants. We are also in contact with the World Bank, which might play a guarantor role," says Van Huyssteen.

Local construction and engineering firms will not be alone in benefiting from the R1,1bn project — Hunt Leuchars & Hepburn subsidiary Transvaal Sugar MD Willem Bekker confirms that, once Maguga water becomes available by about 2002, the milling capacity at the company's new 150 000 t a year Komati sugar mill will also have to be doubled to handle increased sugar cane production.

"The R450m Komati mill, commissioned last year, should get about 30% of its cane from small growers by the end of the current season. Once Maguga comes on stream, sugar cane plantings in the old KaNgwane region will really take off." By then, Transvaal Sugar will also have to add capacity to its existing 320 000 t/year Komati refinery, which serves the Komati mill as well as its 220 000 t/year Malelane sugar mill.

VAN NIEKERK'S TONE 'UNBECOMING'

Land Affairs minister, deputy in policy clash

CLAIMING his deputy minister's tone in making a stand contrary to government policy was 'unbecoming', Mr Derek Hanekom said he would demand an explanation.

FOR the second time in a week an ANC cabinet minister has clashed publicly with an NP minister over government policy.

The clash signals the onset of open political tension in the run-up to the November elections.

Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom, ANC, said yesterday that NP Agriculture Minister Mr Kraai van Niekerk would have to explain to the cabinet his "pathetic rally call to white farmers".

He was reacting to Mr Van Niekerk's statement that he was

prepared to "lead farmers to the point of responsible aggression" to help them retain their land.

Mr Hanekom said his deputy was "desperately trying to win back lost support among farmers".

'Negative'

Mr Van Niekerk had told the Transvaal Agricultural Union that land ownership by farmers was not negotiable and that it was time for farmers to fight "negative influences" threatening their survival.

CT 8/9/95 (3) (P1)

"What on earth is responsible aggression? As for land ownership not being negotiable, are you suggesting that, once we confirm who the real owners of the land are, we do what was done during the grand apartheid era — remove people without any negotiations?"

Mr Hanekom said Mr Van Niekerk's tone was "unbecoming of a cabinet minister".

A spokesman for Mr Van Niekerk's office said he would not react to Mr Hanekom's statement.

In another clash earlier this week, ANC Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu clashed with his NP deputy Mr Renier Schoeman over the National Education Policy Bill.

LAND REFORM

Farmers square up to Hanekom

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom appears to be indulging in the type of brinkmanship normally seen in diplomatic stand-offs.

White landowners and farmers are comforted by his assurance that government won't confiscate private land for distribution nor simply hand out land. For the black majority he carries a beacon of hope when he talks of easy access to credit and subsidies to help put land within reach of the masses.

However, the emotive subject of land ownership and the economic importance of food production won't be dealt with by platitudes.

Judge Appie Steenkamp, SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) land reform spokesman, says that before encouraging talk that white farmland is primarily targeted for takeover, Hanekom should focus on vacant State land — especially the more than 1m ha in the former SA Development Trust.

"Land Affairs has not yet put forward a plan to use this land. There are only vague ideas and promises, notwithstanding government undertakings to use this land for reform. Furthermore, the more than 17m ha situated in the former homelands is often underutilised, from an agricultural point of view. A commission should be appointed to survey and subdivide the land and allocate it to applicants who qualify and are suitable farmers," he says.

In view of the economic role fulfilled by the mainly white, commercial farming sector Steenkamp's view that the sector should also be allowed to guide and assist the reform programme is not without merit.

The sector employs about 1,2m people, provides a livelihood for 6m, contributed to R8,3bn exports of processed and unprocessed food products in 1994, and provides 35% of all the marketable agricultural products produced in Africa.

Steenkamp believes a positive move would be to use the proposed R15 000-a-household scheme for the poor and landless to buy shares for farmworkers in existing, successful farming operations.

"Anyone who thinks you can buy a piece of land and start farming successfully with this small amount in a drought-prone SA is

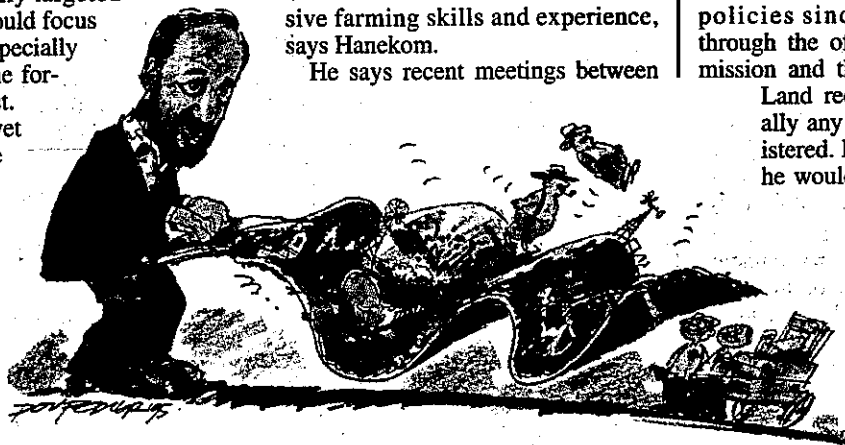
not realistic," Steenkamp says.

He adds that economic research shows large commercial farms generate the best profits — rather than small, labour-intensive smallholdings. "The redistribution of land enabling government to settle small farmers must be very carefully considered and planned, or these farmers may become permanent clients of the taxpayer."

Hanekom says the R15 000 subsidy could be used more economically by groups of prospective black farmers to buy land "communally." Land Affairs has drafted the Community Property Association Bill to allow groups of farmers to jointly register title to a piece of land.

This new property regime would also allow them to pool resources and leverage further financing. Many farmworkers and small black farmers have extensive farming skills and experience, says Hanekom.

He says recent meetings between



groups of farmers, the SAAU and his department over controversial proposals contained in new legislation helped resolve some differences.

"We took note of farmers' concerns that the creation of new land title rights in the middle of an existing farming operation could lead to grave socio-economic and even security risk problems — especially if the new landowners stop renting out their labour to the farmer and instead start renting out the new land to their own tenants."

The Bill was changed to provide for resolution of legitimate complaints by suggesting alternative land areas on the farm, on adjoining land — or for the farmer to buy out the new owner, says Hanekom.

Despite his own willingness to listen to all sides, Hanekom can't hide his annoyance that organised agriculture virtually boycotted last week's landmark land reform

conference in Kempton Park, attended by about 1 000 delegates. He also says fears that Land Affairs is planning mass expropriation of white-owned farmland is groundless, even though he supports removing the so-called property rights clause from the constitution.

"The reason is not to allow government to confiscate land, but rather to free its hand to expropriate land, based on normal conditions of market valuations being honoured by the taxpayer. There is nothing sinister in this," says Hanekom.

Hanekom says expropriation would only be used as a final resort — should a specific farmer refuse to countenance an offer to buy out his land if it is needed for a specific land settlement programme.

Land Affairs' policy provides for the restitution of land taken away by racial policies since 1913. This takes place through the offices of a Restitution Commission and the new Land Claims Court.

Land redistribution allows for virtually any claims for land to be administered. If an applicant should qualify, he would get the R15 000 subsidy to negotiate a land purchase. Hanekom's dilemma, as with so many of government's other political and social issues, is trying to meet the expectations of millions of dispossessed people, while also keeping a grip on economic reality and the fears of economically important whites.

The farming sector has continually warned him of creating unrealistic expectations among the landless and in creating a Utopian view of land ownership. SAAU chief director Kobus Kleynhans says feasible farming needs not only financing and skills, but also infrastructure such as roads, water, power, schools, housing, medical care, market and credit facilities and input providers.

He adds that while the SAAU supports individual private land ownership and opposes unproductive communal land holding, it feels Hanekom's proposal for collective private land ownership is an improvement on the communal system.

"If Hanekom can tone down some of his more controversial public statements, commercial farmers would feel far more secure and prepared to co-operate with a legitimate and market-driven land redistribution policy," says Kleynhans. ■

Farmers should know labour law

CP 10 (9/95) (3)
FARMERS should get to know the labour legislation that applied to them and their labourers, Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) manpower chairman Willie de Bruyn said yesterday.

Farmers needed to draw up understandable contracts before hiring labourers and should also give attention to salaries, leave on public holidays and the benefits paid to workers, he said.

Farm tenants laws drafted (3) (1)

DRAFT legislation protecting the rights of labour tenants and providing them with the right to land ownership was tabled this weekend.

The Labour Tenants Bill forms part of Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom's Land Reform Programme.

CP 10/9/95

ANC settles on plan to redress land imbalances

④ ③
By RAY HARTLEY

THE ANC has decided to argue in favour of a property clause in the new constitution's Bill of Rights, with the proviso that the clause should not undermine land reform efforts.

The effect will be to make it possible for a future government to expropriate land "to redress past imbalances", without necessarily having to pay market-related compensation.

The move represents a compromise between the Land Affairs Minister, Derek Hanekom, and the Minister of Water Affairs, Kader Asmal. Mr Hanekom had wanted the clause scrapped and Mr Asmal had wanted it retained.

During past debate on the subject, the two ministers had agreed on the need for extensive land reform to redress imbalances between black and white land ownership, but they had differed on the best ways to achieve this.

Mr Asmal has argued that the ANC's long-standing policy decision to include a property clause in the Bill of Rights should not be altered. But he has supported a change in the wording of the clause to make land reform easier. ST 10/9/95

Mr Hanekom has argued that the property rights clause was included in the constitution's Bill of Rights at a time when whites feared the new government would confiscate land without compensation.

He has argued that it had become clear that no such confiscation would take place and there was no longer a need for the clause.

The compromise was struck at last weekend's national executive committee meeting, which aimed to create a unified position on a range of constitutional questions.

The committee decided in favour of the new constitution having a president and a deputy president. It decided that the president should be allowed to serve a maximum of two terms.

It was also agreed that the Senate be scrapped and replaced by a body directly representing the provinces.

Bill to halt 'semi-feudalism'

3

Draft legislation protecting the rights of labour tenants and providing them with the right to land ownership was tabled in Parliament at the weekend.

The Labour Tenants Bill forms part of Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom's land reform programme.

Labour tenancy is a semi-feudal relationship between a landowner and a labour tenant in which the latter is obliged to provide free, or virtually free, labour in exchange for the right to occupy and use a portion of farming land, the Minister says in a memorandum on the objectives of the Bill.

It provides that labour tenants may only be evicted if they have breached the contract in ques-

tion, are guilty of misconduct, or if the owner has a very specific need for the land.

Evictions will be circumscribed and will have to follow particular procedures governed by the Land Claims Court.

The measure also provides that a landowner must pay compensation to evicted tenants for the structures they built and for unripened crops.

The Bill does not take away anything which the landowner had been using before, but merely regularises and regulates the terms of a contract which the landowners themselves have chosen to enter into.

It also provides a legislative remedy for landowners in situations of conflict or breach.

Star 11/9/95
Protection clauses have been backdated to June 2, when the Bill was first published for comment in the Government Gazette, to avoid pre-emptive evictions.

Should a labour tenant acquire the ownership of the land which he historically used and occupied, the Bill provides that the landowner should receive compensation, as entrenched in the Constitution.

"There is general agreement ... that the system of labour tenancy is archaic and inequitable," the memorandum says.

"The aim of the Bill is neither to promote nor to entrench the system, but to ensure that in the process of its transformation, the basic human rights of all parties are protected." - Sapa.

Students to study to become entrepreneurs

Mduduzi ka Harvey  BD 11/9/95

GOVERNMENT aims to develop a national core education curriculum which will not only prepare students for formal sector employment but create a multiskilled labour force that can help build the economy, says the education minister's special adviser, Sheila Sisulu.

Opening the third annual SA Entrepreneurship Education Forum in Johannesburg last week, Sisulu said equipping students to work in the formal sector, as well as empowering them to create jobs in the context of a competitive successful economy, required a shift towards an open learning approach.

This approach had to combine the principles of lifelong education, accessible and flexible learning, student support and high quality study materials.

She encouraged more than 100 delegates from Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho and Uganda to liaise with the relevant committees to promote the incorporation of entrepreneurship education into national school curriculums.

At the heart of all developmental initiatives was the need to build partnerships for consultation, advocacy, planning and resourcing. The ministry's framework provided fertile ground for further deliberations on entrepreneurship education.

Free Market Foundations of Southern Africa executive director Leon Louw said meaningful reconstruction and development depended on the extent to which entrepreneurship training was recognised as a key component of the RDP.

Seventeen southern African technikons offered entrepreneurship training, and 20 technical colleges were running pilot courses. The education department had decided in principle to introduce entrepreneurship education and more private schools were incorporating courses.

Airline body calls for closer ties to agents


Theo Rawana

PORT EDWARD — A joint onslaught by the Airlines Association of SA (AASA) and the Association of SA Travel Agents (Asata) to "claim a leading edge in the international travel market" would definitely win if the two drew closer, AASA CE John Morrison said at the weekend.

Addressing Asata's annual congress at the Wild Coast, Morrison said the two had been interfacing for sometime, but the time had come for them to work for closer co-operation.

The AASA represents the airline's interests, in particular with government and the civil aviation department where the industry has found that it is easier to negotiate with government collectively rather than each airline attempting to present its problems individually, Morrison explained.

In a speech read on his behalf, Morrison said both organisations and the travel industry stood to gain from the forthcoming merger (next month) of the AASA and the Regional Airlines Association of Southern Africa, which is open for membership to all scheduled air-

BD 11/9/95 
lines domiciled in Africa, South of the Equator, including the Indian Ocean airlines.

"The benefits of this merger are likely to be significant since the new association will be managed from SA but will be in a position to make collective representation in all of the countries of the member airlines and will be able to deal with issues affecting both the airlines and the travel industry in an enlarged geographical area," Morrison said.

"Resulting from the history of the association, the developing relationship between Asata and the AASA and the position and potential of our industry, domestic airline's conditions are in a critically challenging phase. A balanced and very necessary level of support exists between travel agents and the airlines and must be continuously developed for the ultimate benefit of all in the industry, as must co-operation between the airlines themselves," he said.

He concluded: "On behalf of the airlines and the association, we assure you all that we not only realise but greatly appreciate the value and the support of our agents."

Messina to store water in shafts

Mduduzi ka Harvey  BD 11/9/95

THE transitional council for Greater Messina in Northern Province has launched a water conservation plan which involves the pumping of flood water from the Limpopo river into empty mine shafts.

The project has so far cost R180 000, compared to about R10m if the council had constructed a conventional open surface water retention dam.

The stored water, which will be used during drought periods, will ensure that residents, businesses and industries in the area will have sufficient water.

Messina and surrounding areas are usually supplied with water from wells in the river, but during the rainy season kilolitres of flood water flow towards Mozambique without being utilised along the way.

The council will launch the plan as soon as it receives the hydrological report required by the water affairs department which will then issue a permit for pumping water from the river.

The pumping of water will start as soon as the Limpopo is in flood — within the next month.

The water will provide for the community's needs without being refilled for two-and-a-half years.

Farmers at odds over aid funds

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

THE Transvaal Agricultural Union has expressed concern at the Government's decision to give provincial MECs powers to allocate aid funds to farmers.

This follows Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk's announcement at the weekend that the Government was considering giving aid to farmers in a bid to alleviate the unemployment problem among farm workers.

Van Niekerk said the Government was concerned about the rate of unemployment on the farms, especially in the Northern Province.

He said once funding was avail-

able provincial MECs would have to allocate them.

TAU president Mr Dries Bruwer argued that leaving the allocation of funds to the MECs would result in many commercial farmers being left out.

Bruwer said most of the funds would go towards creating jobs in subsistence farming as was the case with previous funding earlier this year.

He said that if the MECs followed the same procedure, the 570 000 farm workers in commercial farms would be left destitute.

The South African Agricultural Union, however, said it did not have a problem with the Government's decision.

(3) (4) Sowetan 12/9/95

Water prices 'to rise rapidly'

Nicola Jenvey

BD/13/9/95

(3) ~~(2)~~
 DURBAN — Water prices would increase steadily in future, as the rapid rise in demand was countered by static supply, water affairs and forestry department managing engineer development Hendrick Best said yesterday.

He told the International Water Supply Association congress that there was a vast difference in the quality of water services between formal and informal areas, and that attaining minimum quality levels in the latter would become increasingly expensive.

Government policy was for a minimum supply of 20l to 30l a person a day of potable water within 200m of every rural household.

If costs for government water schemes were not met by users, operating deficits would have to be recovered through subsidies, he said.

A tariff policy for the immediate future would be based on a lifeline tariff to ensure all South Africans could afford sufficient water for health and hygiene; a progressive block tariff in urban areas to cover the long-term costs of supplying large-volume users; and a

rural area tariff covering operating and maintenance costs.

Cross-subsidisation between urban and rural areas would also come into effect.

In his presentation Rand Water GM scientific services Schalk van der Merwe said lead piping was the major stumbling block in achieving the water quality standards laid down by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"Lead concentrations can only be reduced by replacing lead-containing pipes, which will be both expensive and long-term," he said.

The high levels of lead, manganese and mercury in source water in SA sometimes exceeded the WHO guidelines, but Van der Merwe said this was limited to areas where source waters were polluted by mining effluent.

"Endeavours are in place to reduce the total exposure to lead, as recommended by WHO," he said.

Rand Water GM engineering Tony Els said that large volumes of water enter the sewers through leaking domestic fittings and savings of between 8 000 and 24 000m³ a day could be achieved by repairing these.

NEWS FOCUS

Land reform is a good option

3
BD 15/1/95

Ciaran Ryan

ACCORDING to prevailing economic orthodoxy, SA's dependence on its mineral and agricultural sectors is a straitjacket from which it must break free. The commodity cycle holds the entire economy captive and prevents it from achieving sustained growth.

Chile, which has an even greater reliance on primary exports, has grown at an average growth rate of 6.3% for the last 10 years, riding out the commodity downturn of the late 1980s and early 1990s with astonishing ease. The formula for its success is nothing new: wholesale privatisation, low across-the-board import tariffs of 11%, a free floating and (until recently) competitive currency, sound fiscal and monetary policies, low corporate tax rates of 15% and investment incentives. Diversification of export markets has shielded it from a downturn in any one single market.

Chile is eager to share its successes with SA. Over the last year it hosted dozens of SA parliamentarians, civil servants and businessmen in search of solutions to the problems which now face the government: land, agricultural and State pension fund reform, economic liberalisation, and the scope and powers of the Truth commission.

The most recent delegation, headed by land affairs minister, Derek Hanekom, returned with valuable insight into Chile's land

and agricultural reforms.

When Chile commenced its land reform programme in the 1960s, it boasted one of the highest concentrations of land ownership in the world. Agricultural productivity was poor, land under-utilised and exports minimal. Land reform was accelerated in the early 1970s under the socialist government of Salvador Allende with the expropriation of land for redistribution to small scale farmers. Forty percent of the country's land was expropriated over eight years and distributed to 54 300 beneficiaries.

Expropriated landlords were compensated in the form of 30-year government bonds, well below fair market value, igniting a political backlash which was partly responsible for precipitating the 1973 military coup by Gen Augusto Pinochet. Nearly one-third of the expropriated farms were returned to their original owners, many of whom subsequently discovered there was more money in real estate and sold portions of their estates to a new breed of farming entrepreneur.

Agricultural production exploded in the 1970s and 1980s along with a greater subdivision of land and the modernisation of the agricultural sector. Almost two-thirds of

the agricultural land is divided into 265 000 farms of 40 irrigated hectares or less.

Today, nearly 40% of Chile's fruit and 70% of its vegetables are produced by small-scale farmers. Fruit exports earned \$910m in 1994, making it the largest fruit exporter in the southern hemisphere.

Land reform in Chile had the effect of smashing the power of absentee landlords and creating a vigorous market for land. This, rather than a miracle turnaround in the productivity of peasant farmers, is behind the country's fruit export performance, says David Cooper, director of the Land and Agriculture Policy Centre. Land reform established Chile as a leading exporter of agricultural produce.

Is this the unqualified success it appears to be?

"The expropriation of land in Chile had severe political implications," says Sue Lund, deputy director-general of land affairs and a member of the delegation to Chile. "Pinochet, it must be remembered, had an appalling human rights record. If we are to learn any lesson from Chile on the question of land reform, it is that we have to balance growth with equity. The free market in Chile has not been to the benefit

of everyone and the gulf between rich and poor has widened."

Agricultural commodities trade freely within predetermined floor and ceiling prices designed to protect both producers and consumers against unforeseen and extraordinary market conditions. The band, however, is wide enough to accommodate normal market conditions.

David Frost, group economist at Premier Foods and a member of Hanekom's delegation to Chile, observes that price ceilings are noticeably absent in SA. The preponderance of floor price mechanisms, on the other hand, symbolises the strength of local producer lobbies relative to those of consumers.

Control boards, like any form of State intervention, are viewed with suspicion in Chile. There are 300 marketing agents for deciduous fruit alone, as against one — Unifruco — in SA. These agents are credited with successfully diversifying Chile's fruit export markets.

In a letter to Business Day (September 4), Unifruco chairman David Gant berates Hanekom for advocating deregulated exports of deciduous fruit from SA, pointing out that Chile's fruit farmers are operating under a growing burden of debt while many are going out of

business, allowing larger companies to buy up land cheaply.

Chile's ambassador to SA, Jorge Heine, replies that the strength of the Chilean peso in the midst of South America's currency collapse following the Mexico crisis has exposed agricultural producers to competition from importers. Many are now calling for increased protection, tantamount to heresy in this shrine of free market liberalism. They are unlikely to get it, and those farmers who cannot compete will have to put the land to better use or sell their farms.

"There is also a distrust of quality standards in Chile because these are seen as an intervention in the free market," says Heine.

SA producers of flowers, fresh vegetables, avocados and mangoes are flourishing without a control board to handle their marketing. Why, asks Cooper, should deciduous fruits be any different?

Eustace Davies, director of the Free Market Foundation, points out that currency appreciation is a sign of economic maturity and "perhaps Chile should start importing food and concentrating on other areas of economic advantage".

If the Chilean example is anything to go by, SA's policy of land reform — although largely rooted in notions of social equity — will do more than simply create jobs on smallholdings. It could catapult agricultural productivity into a new realm, says Cooper.

Now it's war on water wastage

ARG 16/9/95 (3) (423)

BRENDAN SEERY

Own Correspondent

IN spite of it seeming to have rained enough this winter to make everything sodden in the Cape, there is a water crisis.

And, there is the question of priorities. Could the R108 million spent on the pipeline to bring water from dams on the Palmiet River to Cape Town (to help water suburban gardens) not have been better used in providing clean water to 20 000 families?

Conservation of water as a way of life is something Professor Asmal is trying to instil in South Africans.

In launching the National Water Conservation Campaign this week, Professor Asmal was at pains to point out "I am not crying wolf".

His message was: The lack of water can delay or derail the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and has the potential to become a prime destabilising element in southern Africa.

South Africans (and especially privileged whites) should accept that they lived in a water-short country and adjust their lives accordingly.

Already, he has annoyed suburbanites with his commitment to increasing rates for those who consume more. In farming communities, he is becoming almost as irritating as Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom. He has pledged to look closely at water rights and the use of water by those on the land.

Farming accounts for 58 percent of the

■ Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal paints a bleak picture: there is not enough water in the Western Cape to provide its residents with the internationally-accepted minimum of 25 to 30 litres per person a day.

water used in South Africa, while domestic users take only 12 percent and the mining industry a surprisingly-low four percent.

But, it is not all about punitive measures in the Ministry of Water Affairs' campaign to redistribute the water resources of the country effectively.

One of the focal points in the conservation campaign will be to encourage water-saving measures in households — dual flush toilets, aerators on taps to water flows to be halted in operations like brushing teeth or washing hands and vegetables, and correction of leaks in pipes — could save as much as 30 percent in water consumption.

This could be achieved through a cost to the householder of about R100 — an amount which would be recouped in months through reduced water bills, according to Dr Guy Preston, the University of Cape Town expert who is national coordinator of Professor Asmal's conservation campaign.

One of the priorities for Professor Asmal and his ministry has been to re-write the statute books to tighten up control

over water. The minister says, for example, that South Africa is one of the few countries in the world which has no legal way to restrict the use of underground water (save through emergency regulation by the minister).

Permits for forestry projects also have been tightened up and, because of the potential affect these can have on water tables, none will be approved in future unless a full environmental impact study has been done.

Also in the pipeline is an innovative grassroots scheme to generate income and employment, as well as improving water availability by large-scale campaigns to remove alien or invasive tree and plant species.

Professor Asmal is well aware, however, that the big wastage of water will have to be tackled. While small scale domestic consumers save the water from the bath for their gardens, their local authorities are squandering the precious fluid at an astounding rate.

Rand Water Board's Vincent Bath acknowledged that as much as 20 percent of all water supplied by the board to municipal consumers in Gauteng was "unaccounted for". It drained away through decayed and decrepit piping and was siphoned off by thieves who tapped into mains pipes near squatter camps.

Professor Asmal knows municipalities openly say that water is so cheap that it actually costs them more to repair leaks than it does to lose the water. All that will change, he promises, as municipalities (and their clients down the line) start paying a cost-related rate for their water.

No, Sir, Gauteng should not ride on others' backs

BD 18/9/95

(3)

Alex Hamilton

MY PROPOSAL as published on July 11 that Gauteng should pay for water transferred to it through the Tugela scheme was a serious proposal aimed at alleviating poverty in KwaZulu-Natal.

Of course, no one expects or wants a wholesale relocation of water-intensive industrial undertakings from Gauteng to KwaZulu-Natal. That is as absurd as it is unlikely. But the fact remains that there are very serious economic problems in KwaZulu-Natal, many of which result from chronic underfunding per capita in relation to Gauteng, the old Cape Province and the old Transvaal province allocations.

The real purpose of my comments, which were fairly reported in your paper, was to point out the economy of Gauteng was being artificially sustained and indeed, allowed to continue to grow, as a result of the importation of vast amounts of water from other "water-rich" regions such as KwaZulu-Natal and Lesotho, nullifying the competitive advantage this province had over the rest of SA in relation to water.

This pattern breaks all the natural laws of economics to the immense disadvantage of a quarter of SA's population. The proposal that Gauteng pay a market related rate for water drawn from the Tugela water scheme was intended to result in water-dependent operations locating their operations in our province. As a result of market-related water rates being charged, we obviously would also expect the capital costs of the pumping operation to be factored into these rates and, in this way, to bring about an actual redistribution of wealth.

Before I address your assertions regarding KwaZulu-Natal's "fitness" to be home of manufacturing excellence ("Like it or not, the best place for industry is Gauteng" by Jim Jones — Business Day, July 13) I would like to point out that it is a widely accepted fact that cities and manufacturing regions all have an optimum size, expansion beyond which is unsustainable and may only be further developed through massive subsidies and/or resources being divert-

ed to them from other regions. It is economic nonsense to propound the concept of a megalopolis for Gauteng at the expense of other regions and a formula for political and social disaster.

Does anyone in their right mind seriously envisage Johannesburg/Gauteng with a population of 20- or 30-million workers/residents, many of whom would be migrant workers, while the rest of the country lives in abject poverty and squalor? In KwaZulu-Natal, for example, more than 4-million people have no access to water.

This is 42% of the population — the average for the rest of the country is 18%.

No, Mr Jones, our province should be paid a market-related rate for its water.

One project this revenue could finance would be irrigation of the 58 000ha on the banks of the Tugela for small-scale, intensive agricultural extension, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs — in a region without hope where people are actually dying of thirst.

The old KwaZulu and Natal both suffered chronic underfunding during the previous system of government. A 1993 study by Deloitte & Touche commissioned by the then KwaZulu government identified underfunding which very largely contributed to the unemployment problem and the lack of development the province experiences today.

Regarding the assertions of KwaZulu-Natal's "unfitness" to be the home of manufacturing excellence, I can tell you it has a highly sophisticated manufacturing base, incorporating the motor, chemical, petroleum, leather and footwear, food processing, paper, pharmaceuticals, ferrochrome, building materials and tourism industries. And the assertion that Cape Town is home to the clothing industry is incorrect. At best Cape Town may be home to half of the clothing industry and a portion of the textile industry. The remainder of both is concentrated in KwaZulu-Natal.

Further, insofar as major capital developments are concerned, KwaZulu-Natal leads the country. There are mammoth developments such as new Bayside plant

at Alusaf, Huletts aluminium extrusions, Salcor, AECI and, of course, our new international convention centre which has already attracted major international conventions to Durban, plus the new 350-room Hilton hotel and many other hotel/casino developments which are on the way.

More than 75% of all shipping tonnage entering and leaving the Republic does so through Durban and Richards Bay.

Jim Jones's assertion that Gauteng is the major market for SA cannot possibly be true. The market for SA products is surely beyond our borders — in the Indian Ocean Rim, for example; our traditional European, UK and North American markets; to say nothing of the Pacific Rim.

The best way to attain sustainable economic growth is to have an export-led economy. That being the case, companies locating close to the major ports will enjoy massive strategic advantages.

Finally I would like to examine your assertions that the Western Cape has the "possibility" of becoming the centre for manufacturing excellence. That is as absurd as it is laughable. The only sectors where the Western Cape are larger producers than KwaZulu-Natal is in the production of wine and pottery, and there is strong resistance to the mining of Chapman's Peak to sustain the region's pottery manufacture.

Using the latest figures available to us (the Department of Statistics 1988 Review) Cape Town's contribution to manufactured GDP was R16bn — KwaZulu-Natal's contribution was R25bn. There is little doubt that this gap will have greatly widened in the intervening seven years.

KwaZulu-Natal is a resourceful province able to offer every service required of a modern state endeavouring to expand its economy. All we ask for is an equitable share of national resources based on merit and economic "good sense" and not to be penalised because national economic planners have a Gauteng orientation and bias simply because that is where they are.

□ Hamilton is a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Parliament.

Speed land reform, world labour urges

~~#~~ ~~#~~ (3) (10)
HARARE. — The International Labour Organisation says southern African countries should speed up land reforms to boost employment and productivity. ARG 20/9/95

ILO specialist Nelson Moyo told delegates at an employment seminar in Harare that colonial racist policies still hampered employment in the region.

"The high level of unemployment is also a consequence of racist policies of the past, especially in countries like South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia that deprived the indigenous population," Dr Moyo said.

Southern Africa offered significant employment potential.

"Employment-intensive infrastructure programmes will be required to support the development of the tourism sector, which is employment-intensive. It is a pity that governments have tended to favour capital investments."

The use of a large labour force in public construction works could be a major source of employment for the majority of the region's population.

"This requires a decision by governments that when they spend money it results in higher employment levels," Dr Moyo said. "In many countries there still exist strong lobbies against labour-based methods." — Sapa.

Water dept far ahead in identifying cash needs

(3) BD 20/9/95

Robyn Chalmers

THE water affairs and forestry department has emerged as the most advanced of all government departments in planning infrastructure investment, which could ensure that it received the largest share of the funds to be allocated over five years.

A preliminary report on government's infrastructure investment plan estimated that infrastructure needs (largely rural) from government and parastatals over the next five years would amount to R174,1bn.

Water and sanitation was identified as being the sector requiring the most funding from government revenues and borrowing, with an estimated R30,1bn needed over five years and R3,5bn required in the current financial year.

Planning within the department was based on a short, medium and

long-term scenario.

The short-term goal was to establish a national water supply and sanitation programme aimed at providing clean water and ensuring that each household had an adequate sanitation facility with refuse removal for all urban communities.

In the medium-term, on-site water should be supplied to all rural households and adequate sanitation facilities should be made available to 75% of rural households. The long-term objective was to ensure that, in addition to these basic needs, all South Africans had access to the water and sanitation services they needed.

The report said that in calculating the funds required it had taken into account that water boards' spending on new infrastructure consisted of 35% of the overall water sector investment in the current year, and was likely to be funded from the capital market.

Pick 'n Pay makes a comeback

(3) ET (MR) 21/9/95

By MAGGIE ROWLEY

Pick 'n Pay, which is undergoing a major restructuring to improve the focus of its operations, has regained the market share lost during last year's strikes and lifted earnings 38,6 percent for the six months to the end of August.

Turnover for the group, including the recently acquired Score Supermarkets, was up 19,21 percent at R4,4 billion, while for Pick 'n Pay Stores alone, sales showed a 17,3 percent improvement.

Operating income was up 35 percent at R58,4 million and after a lower effective tax bill and increase in net interest received, income after taxation was 48,4 percent higher at R44 million.

Attributable earnings of R38,7 million were up 38,3 percent, equal to 24,75c (17,89c) at the share level. An interim dividend of 8,75c, a 26 percent improvement on last year, will be paid.

Chairman Raymond Ackerman said the increase in turnover was pleasing after last year's increase of only 9 percent. Some of this improvement, he said, came from trading against reduced strike turnover figures which cost the company about R100 million in sales last year. It was thus unlikely that these figures could be maintained for the full year.

However, the company would also have to carry the cost of the early retirement and voluntary retrenchment packages, for which 2'000 employees had opted. This would cost about R26 million this year, but the net saving next year would be about R30 million.

Peri-urban farming 'can benefit' SA's economy

(3) 80 21/9/95

Louise Cook

FARMING in peri-urban areas has traditionally been ignored, even stifled, by township planners and developers. In Gauteng this will change in a year — some quarters in the provincial government have started to rock the residential-trade-commerce mindset of those who zone land on the urban fringe. Special adviser to the Gauteng agriculture ministry EP van der Walt says the fight is against perceptions.

Van der Walt says Gauteng last year lost 123 000ha of high-potential agricultural land last year due to urban sprawl. Supporters of agricultural development on the urban fringe are determined to open up opportunities for peri-urban farmers.

“Traditionally, agricultural assistance in the form of drought relief and access to land had been denied to small-scale farmers. The new White Paper on Agriculture had changed all of that — peri-urban small growers can now contribute significantly to job creation and affordable food, provided they are not hamstrung by excessive regulations. In the past, any farming enterprise in these areas was stillborn before it started.”

Arguments for are convincing, even enticing; Gauteng Farmers' Union chairman Leonard Mosala espouses the cost and health benefits of cheap and fresh food because production would be right on top of markets, eliminating the need for expensive and time-consuming transport. Farmers could have a field day selling to readily available, economically active urban dwellers and hawkers. Social upliftment and reduced crime would be another spin-off — “thousands” of jobs would be created. Eventually, once the idea of intensive peri-urban agriculture gains momentum, agribusiness in the form of processing plants and canning facilities would mushroom.

Peri-urban and urban farming is often the difference to many households between eating and not eating. But the road ahead is still fraught with problems, says Data Research Africa researcher Julian May.

He did extensive work on the issue to help the ANC formulate agricultural policy.

The main urban fringe penalties for these farmers include lack of security

of tenure, crime, stock theft, lack of training and skills, lack of equipment and lack of access to credit.

May says the enterprise often fails simply because no legal protection exists for the farmer to continue farming on the same land.

“The land might be allocated for industrial or other uses and farmers are chased off by authorities, even having to leave their crops behind without compensation.”

Agricultural Research Council director Leo Korentajer says last year saw the start of special courses to train backyard farmers in poultry and maize production. Reconstruction and development programme funding of R200 000 was recently allocated to continue with the programme for the rest of this year, but more than R500 000 is needed to set up a training centre in Mamelodi.

“The idea is to train trainers. That way, it is hoped, skills would be disseminated into communities.” The courses aim to get families to become self-sufficient in food production and not necessarily to embark on commercial farming projects. Access to credit is a major impediment, says Mosala.

“Banks and other lending institutions do not believe that the peri-urban small-scale farmer is serious about farming, but in the Doornkop area farmers who have built up their farms from private resources, are today selling produce on the City Deep market. The lack of security of tenure also contributes to the problem.”

Mosala says it is time peri-urban farming became part of the national economy. If May's research on international peri-urban farming is anything to go by, chances are this will take a long time to achieve in SA.

Asian cities are the most advanced in officially incorporating farming in policy decisions. But in Africa, only 10% to 25% of the urban population is involved in food production due to less support for the ruralisation of cities. “Nonetheless, the actual importance of food production on the urban periphery in the developing world will clearly vary according to type of land available, its location and the attitude of land owners and urban authorities.”

SA, and municipal authorities in particular, could do well to do some rethinking on the issue.

Water saving below month's 20% target

(3) (23) PD 22/9/95

Business Day Reporter

A SAVING of 14,2% in water consumption during August was reported by the Rand Water Board yesterday — way below the target of 20% for the month.

It was the first month of a five-month campaign to cut consumption through the imposition of additional tariffs on bulk consumers for failing to meet the target set by the water affairs department.

The only individual region in the Rand Water Board's supply area which met the target was the Free State.

The mining industry also reached its specific target of an 18% saving, a board statement said.

Rand Water's Archer Davis said he hoped this

example would be followed by other users.

"When one looks at the size and complexity of the mining industry it is truly amazing to see that they have put in place effective systems."

Davis said the August saving was double that achieved in July, which was in turn double that of June. The board first drew public attention to the worsening situation in primary supply systems in April.

"There is some comfort in seeing that the trend is in the right direction, but clearly greater efforts need to be made," he said.

Forecasts indicate that the Vaal River system, from which the Rand Water Board draws most of its supply, will dry up within a year if traditional consump-

tion patterns remain and if the catchment area does not receive good rainfall in the coming rain season.

The Rand Water Board supplies bulk consumers such as municipal authorities, large industries and the mines.

While it was not accountable for distribution to end users, the board said it was trying to assist in these areas and was providing technical assistance.

However, it was clear problems still existed. In deprived communities, reticulation infrastructures had deteriorated and were badly maintained. This was influenced by logistical difficulties, including lack of funds, crime, threats to the personal safety of workers and a lack of education.

Group of SA farmers consider putting down fresh roots in Uganda

(3) Star 23/9/95

By JOE KHAMISI
INDEPENDENT FOREIGN SERVICE

More South African farmers are considering relocating - this time to Uganda.

A group of 23 farmers, with the approval of the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU), went on a reconnaissance visit last month. The delegation was headed by Hans Herbst, a leading Brahman farmer from Roedtan, near Naboomspruit.

TAU president Dries Bruwer said the high commissioner for Uganda in SA had taken the initiative and invited the farmers to visit his country.

"The farmers were met by President Yoweri Museveni and government officials. We are insisting on a government-to-government agreement before farmers belonging to the TAU decide to settle in other countries.

"We are about to sign an agreement with the Mozambican government which will act as a blueprint for future accords," said Bruwer.

However, before land can be granted to the farmers it will have to be approved by the cabinet since Uganda bars ownership of agricultural land by foreigners. Officials say cabinet approval is possible as long as the project is large, export oriented and beneficial to the economy.

In releasing details of the discussions recently, the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) said the South Africans had made a request for a large tract of land for dairy farming, game ranching and traditional crop farming.

Their request was for either a joint venture with local farmers or a long-term lease arrangement of more than 45 years with automatic renewal.

During their visit, the UIA organised a one-day workshop attended by representatives from the government, financial institutions and local farmers.

At least 200 local landowners expressed interest in joint ventures with the South Africans.

The visitors also raised the possibility of acquiring Ugandan citizenship.

"They felt this was the security an investor needed to justify transfer of large investments into the country," the UIA said.

The South Africans indicated they would like to settle in groups to allow them to maintain their culture and language.

The entry of the farmers into the Ugandan economy is likely to have far-reaching economic and political repercussions, observers say. Economically it would help to transform vast tracts of virgin land into a useful reservoir of food.

Agricultural production, now

accounting for half of the gross domestic product, would most likely increase through the use of modern farming techniques which the South Africans would offer.

It would also bring a diversification of agriculture from traditional to non-traditional crops and create employment for thousands of Ugandans.

The country has fertile soil and plenty of rain. However, most of the 19-million Ugandans live in poverty.

Perennial famine, especially in the north-eastern region, is turning out to be one of the government's biggest headaches.

And politically the entry of South Africa could plunge the already embattled Museveni into a fresh crisis.

With the history of apartheid fresh in the minds of most Ugandans, the white farmers could create problems.

Museveni himself faces immense internal pressures.

Six months from now, he goes to the polls to fight for his political survival, the first time since he came to power in 1986. And at least five guerilla movements are fighting to topple him.

With these problems it is unlikely that any decision on the South African farmers will be made soon. - Independent Foreign Service

Task force formed to help lift taxi industry's poor record

(3) Star 23/9/95

A task force to address traffic safety issues in Gauteng's taxi industry was formed in Johannesburg yesterday, the province's department of public transport and roads said.

The task force's aim is to reduce taxi-related accidents by at least 5% a year.

The Gauteng Taxi Safety Task Force was established following recommendations on road safety made by the Gauteng Taxi Initiative, the department said.

It is the first major step towards implementing proposals made earlier this week on the

most pressing issues in the industry.

In a speech prepared for delivery at the launch of the task force, Transport and Public Roads MEC Olaus van Zyl referred to the widely held view that the taxi industry was responsible for many accidents.

"The overall South African national road traffic safety record is acknowledged to be very poor. There is widespread concern that the taxi industry is especially culpable.

Issues such as overloading, speeding, condition of the vehicle, and driver fatigue need to be

addressed urgently."

The task force was formed after consultation between major parties in the taxi industry and will be headed by Van Zyl.

It will be responsible for designing and implementing safety awareness campaigns and implementing a programme to improve the relationship between taxi owners, operators, drivers and traffic officers.

Its other functions include monitoring the violation rates among taxi drivers and setting up an anonymous telephone hotline to report negligent and reckless taxi drivers. - Sapa

Mandela says black farmers must be given access to land

(3) BD 27/9/95

PRETORIA — Obstacles denying black farmers access to land had to be removed urgently, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

After meeting a National African Farmers' Union delegation at the Union Buildings, he told reporters this should be done without upsetting the food producing agricultural sector.

"The two must go together. We must ensure that the farming community is not disrupted. They must produce food for the country, (as) we need that. At the same time, the question of land hunger must be addressed."

The union represents about 40 000 mostly small farmers in the former homelands.

Mandela said the delegation, headed by union president Matome Maponya, had asked for the lifting of a moratorium on land in the former homelands earmarked by the previous government for

black farming. The sale or lease of this land had been suspended by the former government.

Mandela said the union had advanced "very good grounds" on why the moratorium should be lifted. Another area of concern was the auctioning of land in cases where the owners were not able to keep up their loan repayments.

Mandela said such land was being bought back by white farmers because black, coloured and Indian farmers did not have the means to do so. "So the status quo is perpetuated. We are dealing with a case where members of a population have resources and the others in need of land have none."

Mandela said the union had also informed him of what they claimed was racial discrimination against black farmers leasing farm land. They were not being granted the option to buy the land.

The President said it also ap-

peared that certain provincial MECs were channelling government agricultural resources to their own political parties and this was creating "a great deal of friction and ill-feeling".

"There is also money which government earmarked to buy tractors to help farmers. There is a great deal of concern about this because no one seems to know what happened with these funds. It does appear that some of it went to the old bureaucrats and did not reach the farmers who are in need of assistance."

The union had also complained about its lack of access to Land Bank loans and other support services, Mandela said.

Other concerns included the "domination by whites of agricultural command structures" and the lack of a "single government body" to focus on rural renewal and development. — Sapa.

Water wastage in SA 'costs R800m a year'

BY LLEWELLYN JONES

ET (BR) 27/9/95 STAFF WRITER

Water lost through faulty meters, illegal connections, waste and faulty plumbing costs the nation R800 million each year, says Edgar Johnson, the senior water engineer at Stewart Scott consulting engineers.

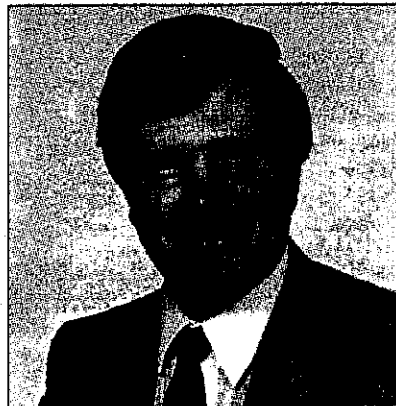
Johnson said water authorities needed to apply strict management principles to the country's water resources if the serious water shortages facing South Africa were to be tackled.

He said the existing Water Act provided the minister of water affairs with far-reaching powers to restrict water usage during shortage periods, but did not necessarily provide measures to ensure conservation at all times. Of the R800 million lost on an annual basis, a potential saving of R330 million could be achieved through a reduction in leakage alone.

Johnson said these figures were unacceptable. "It has been shown, for example, that in developing countries unaccounted-for water can be between 40 percent and 50 percent of water supplied, whereas this figure probably lies between 10 percent and 30 percent in developed countries."

A study for Soweto revealed that the level of unaccounted-for water compared with that of developing countries, and that leakage within residential properties was approximately 16 percent of the total quantity supplied to the city.

Johnson ascribes the high levels of lost



WATER TIGHT Edgar Johnson, senior engineer at Stewart Scott

water in developing communities to inadequate system maintenance by infrastructure suppliers. "One of the biggest reasons given for non-payment of services in such communities has been poor or non-existent service. This indicates to me that more emphasis should then be placed on managerial and behavioural strategies."

He said legislation and water audits on water authorities could be applied to alleviate the problem. "A water audit is the most comprehensive method to determine water loss and is similar to that conducted by any business. It is a management tool to help managers reduce water and revenue losses, reduce inefficiencies, plan renovations, and evaluate operations and water rates."

Wasted water 'costs SA R800-m a year'

BY LLEWELLYN JONES

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determine water loss and is similar to that conducted by any business. It is a management tool to help managers reduce water and revenue losses, reduce inefficiencies, plan renovations, and evaluate operations and water rates."

Johnson said the shortage of middle and upper-level manpower, especially in the scientific, engineering and technical fields, also needed to be addressed.

The shortage led to reduced levels of productivity, resulting in poor quality services which, in turn, contributed to the high levels of lost water.

The proper application of water demand management could also facilitate the creation of employment opportunities.

(3) ~~12~~ Nov 27/9/95

Residents urged to report on neighbours using hoses during the day

Jo'burg backs 'water spies'

(3) Star 28/9/95

STAFF REPORTER

As Gauteng's water crisis deepens, Greater Johannesburg's council has called on residents to report neighbours who flout water restrictions - and will probably introduce a R750 fine system for users who ignore consumption cutbacks.

But the council itself is still watering its lawns during the

day - a luxury it has denied homeowners who can water their gardens only in the evening as Gauteng swelters in a heat wave.

Yakoob Makda, chairman of the council's engineering services committee, announced yesterday that the council was looking at a stringent proposal aimed at enforcing water conservation measures by penalising

consumers who were still ignoring pleas to save water.

He said the R750 fine system would "in all probability" be implemented in a fortnight's time.

Savings by consumers had fallen from 13,9% in August to a meagre 9% in the first two weeks of September - less than half the 20% target the council had been aiming for since June.

"We are not certain whether

HEAT WAVE is building up and city council plans a hefty fine of R750 for the over-use of water

the drop in savings can be attributed to people becoming more active in their spring gar-

dens or that a few recent downpours have created an impression that the intensity of the drought has been lifted."

Asked whether the council was also saving water, he said it had begun turning off its fountains at night and restricted its watering of parks and gardens.

Makda urged residents to report water wastage in any form; and to co-operate in a bid

to conserve water and prevent unnecessary hardship in times to come, arguing it "would be easy to save water but impossible to make more rain".

The Weather Bureau confirms that the heat gripping Gauteng meets all the requirements to be deemed an official heat wave. Temperatures are set to start declining tomorrow.

Numbers to call to report wa-

ter wastage are: the Manzi Water Watch Line (011) 682-091; Alexandra 882-6200; Dobsonville 988-1011(ext 154); Ennerdale 855-1006 (ext 268); Johannesburg 403-2626; Diepmeadov 933-1973/4/5 (ext 231); Lenasia South East 857-1510/63; Randburg 789-0439 or 1350/2 (ah); Roodepoort 672-8142; Sandton 444-1850 or 883-2813 (ah); and Soweto 0801-116-264.

③ 29/9/95

Alien vegetation affects everyone this country needs badly - and it ma
Allen

Water: no magic

Gautengers may feel that the R28-million project to clear water-guzzling alien vegetation, which was announced last week, has little to do with their daily lives, but they would be wrong.

The project is the first of a planned 48 projects in a National Water Conservation Campaign, which is going to affect everyone in this country as it addresses the trade-offs that will have to be made between water supply, water quality and who pays.

"We do not have some magic wand to settle South Africa's water problems," says Dr Guy Preston, project co-ordinator in the office of Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal. "But we know we have to encourage equity, efficiency and sustainability in the supply and use of water. In meeting this, the project to eradicate invasive plants from rivers has the potential to deliver fantastic results."

One negative impact of invader alien plants is that they take up water and evaporate it through their leaves and in the process rivers and streams dry up. In addition, moisture which should fall to the ground and then seep into rivers, falls on leaves and is evaporated in sunlight. Also, invader plants displace indigenous vegetation and because their spread is not inhibited by natural enemies, they transform landscapes and threaten biodiversity.

Preston points out that some of the programmes being funded by the project involve rivers that supply Gauteng with water. Eradicating the water-guzzling aliens from these water sources means more water will be available for all users. Estimates of the increase in annual water yield of

rivers presently choked with alien vegetation are as high as 30% to 50%.

If the water supply implications of Asmal's experts are right, then it could lead to the postponement of major capital works for the provision of water, such as large dams. This will mean significant financial savings for consumers.

Some of the programmes in the eradication project, which is being funded under the Reconstruction and Development Programme banner, involve neighbour provinces of Gauteng. Mpumalanga is to receive R3-million for clear-ups on the Sabie and Sand rivers catchments, and Northern Province gets R3-million for the Letaba River catchment, with a further R3-million from the Forest Owners' Association for the two provinces.

These programmes will not only ensure a better water supply to the two regions, but also to Kruger Park and Mozambique. The creation of jobs and ultimately better living conditions in these regions will have a direct beneficial ripple effect on Gauteng.

While none of the present projects falls in Gauteng, the province has a serious invasive plant problem along its rivers. Local job creation initiatives to tackle the problem would definitely be supported, Preston says.

The initial phase of the alien plants project has been designed to show what can be done: "a pilot test that helps us to fully understand the opportunities and constraints facing us in developing the programme to its fullest," says Preston.

The main focus in the first phase is on the Western Cape. It receives R10-million to clear the



Lisbon Falls ... most of the trees in the picture on the left enhanced picture on the right shows what the area would be like if the alien vegetation was removed and more water gets to the r

Limietberg-Hottentots Holland mountains and R3,5-million for the Outeniqua mountains. The Eastern Cape gets R3,5-million

for the Krom and Kouga rivers in the Langkloof area, and R1,5-million for the Keiskammahoek-Stutterheim area. An additional

and our resources. It uses water which
st be removed. Science Writer Anita
reports.

, just hard work

(3) ~~Star~~ 27/9/95



for water affairs and forestry industry representatives. It will be the steering committee's task to define how the programme will be implemented in their areas.

A direct measure of the success of the project will be the number of jobs that are created which has to be evenly allocated to men and women, and capacity building. For the initial period to March 1996, it is estimated that 3 000 jobs will be created and in the long term over 20 years this could rise to 20 000 direct jobs.

Eradication of alien plants is not a once-off exercise. In one Sappi plantation, where an eradication programme has been ongoing for a number of years, a total of 45 sweeps of the Mac Mac River has been completed, and the aliens are still springing up again each year.

"The problem in South Africa is so huge that we could have started anywhere," says Preston. "But we wanted to spread the benefits, so the criteria we used was that we had to select areas where the impact would be significant, where communities needed work to fulfil RDP goals and where structures were in place to make the programme work. Then we worked with people in the identified areas to get a major buy-in."

Preston's team is expecting that international agencies will also buy-in, especially in the Western Cape where the selling point will be that it is the smallest of the six plant kingdoms of the world with unprecedented biodiversity, and extreme pressure from human population growth.

In the long term, it is hoped that the project will be self-generating through the sale of secondary products such as wood for fuel, furniture, crafts and con-

struction material. In addition, the team is hoping that the idea will capture the imagination of South Africans.

The eradication project is just one component of a broader concept of integrated river catchment management.

This involves additional actions such as rehabilitation of degraded lands, control of agricultural damage, and development planning.

Other projects in the National Water Conservation Campaign which are under way or being investigated include the promotion of water-wise gardening and farming techniques; effective metering and meter reading; labelling of appliances to raise awareness of their lifetime costs; the identification of high profile people to act as role models and guardians of the campaign; the setting up of new regulations for new houses; a review of tariff structures and a review of groundwater use and management. In addition, the public have been invited to submit project ideas.

The goal of the NWCC, which was announced on World Water Day (March 22) this year, is to develop new policy on water conservation that will ensure equity, efficiency and sustainability in the supply and use of water in South Africa.

These principles and the necessary trade-offs will be debated at next month's National Conference on Water Conservation on October 2 and 3 at the World Trade Centre, Kempton Park.

The conference will be the prime opportunity for everyone to make sure that their views are heard and to be part of the policy setting - and tariff structuring - process.

ft are invasive water-guzzling alien plants. The graphically
ld look like after they are eradicated. Rehabilitation to nat-
river.

PICTURE: ADAPTED BY DAVIDA TANCHEL

R500 000 has been allocated for national project co-ordination.

The process of accessing the funds is presently being set up

through steering committees in each region. In Mpumalanga and Northern Province this will be made up of the MECs responsible

SA water laws 'a mess'

~~(12)~~ (3) Star 29/9/95

■ BY PATRICK PHOSA

Delegates to a conference on ground water this week raised questions about legislation governing water use and suggested laws might be necessary to prevent exploitation of ground water through private

boreholes.

South Africa's water legislation is "in a mess", said Len Abrams, special adviser to Water and Forestry Affairs Minister Kader Asmal.

"The status of groundwater in the law is certainly one of the most important questions to be addressed," he said.

John Tonkin, president of the Borehole Water Association of Southern Africa, said drought-stricken communities, especially in the Northern Province, might not be able to afford borehole water and were open to exploitation by individuals who could afford boreholes.

Evictions a 'recipe for more bloodshed'

(3) Star 29/9/95

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom yesterday warned that evictions of labour tenants and their families from farms in KwaZulu-Natal were a recipe for further bloodshed.

"It has come to my attention that numerous labour tenants and their families are being evicted from farms in the KwaZulu-Natal province, particularly in the districts of Vryheid, Utrecht and Louwsburg," the minister said.

"These actions are not only contrary to the spirit of the numerous agreements already reached, but the actions of certain individuals among the affected parties are a recipe for conflict.

"Already there are indications that certain individuals are planning retaliation, and possible bloodshed could ensue," the minister said.

According to Hanekom, the culprits were not only acting against the interests of landowners, who were striving to secure an amicable solution to land problems in the region, but they were also doing the whole country a disservice.

Evicted

Any labour tenant who was evicted contrary to the provisions of the Land Reform Bill, which is to be enacted early next year, would be entitled to claim reinstatement on the land, and costs, he said.

"I wish to once again make an earnest appeal to all affected parties to act with the utmost restraint in this sensitive situation," Hanekom added.

Hanekom is to attend a meeting in Vryheid on Sunday following calls for his intervention. — Sapa.

Illegal charges to farmers force up food prices

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

THE price of food and other farming products is being driven up by millions of rands a year in illegal interest being charged by agricultural co-operatives.

"Many co-operatives are charging interest rates which are clearly in breach of the Usury Act," said Herman Le Roux, deputy director of the Department of Trade and Industry in charge of monitoring the Usury Act.

"It's costing farmers millions of rands a year," he said.

Banks have repaid many millions to clients following the disclosure of illegal interest rates.

A Saturday Argus investigation has uncovered a case in which Coenie Louw, a Malmesbury farmer who was sequestered by the Westelike Provinsie Ko-Operatief (WPK), was overcharged by as much as R9,2 million, according to evidence in a court case from a chartered accountant.

Mr Louw's wife Marietjie, who was also sequestered recently by the WPK because she had stood surety for her husband, told Saturday Argus that "co-ops have got farmers in a clove hitch".

"They know that we depend on them for finance to farm. But farmers are not accountants — they don't understand accounting practices and most of them don't realise they are paying interest on interest, which is illegal," she said.

ARG 30/9/95 (3)

■ Farmers are paying millions of rands a year in illegal interest charges, says Usury Act monitor Herman Le Roux of the Department of Trade and Industry.

"And co-ops think farmers don't have the guts to take them on if they are doing anything wrong. Well, I'm one farmer who's not afraid to blow the whistle on a co-op.

"My husband has lost his farm because of the co-op and I'm in danger of losing mine, although the curator is doing his best to keep it going."

She said most co-ops were run "by the same Broederbond financiers who run the banks and the financial institutions".

The DTT's Mr Le Roux disclosed recently in evidence to the Nel Commission (which is investigating interest rates in its inquiry into the affairs of Masterbond) that co-operatives were charging interest on interest, which is illegal.

He told the commission that he had been suspended by the Department of Finance in 1992 after he went public on bank overcharges.

A partner in a major accounting firm, Peter Strauss of Price Waterhouse in Paarl, said in an affidavit in Mr Louw's case that a R15 million debt to the WPK would have been reduced to R5,8 million if interest had not been capitalised monthly.

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'Long-term crisis could cripple the country'

Minister calls for higher water tariffs

Star 3/10/93

(123) (3)

BY ANITA ALLEN

Substantially higher water tariffs should be paid by all sectors of society, including industry, mining, agriculture and domestic users, Minister of Water Affairs Mader Asmal told delegates yesterday at the National Water Conservation Campaign conference. "For all sectors, the economic true price of water is substantially higher than the tariffs they are paying at present," he said. Asmal also warned that the current situation where small users effectively subsidised large users was not fair.

"There is a great disparity in the tariff paid for water by different sectors. Aside from the question of equity with respect to why some sectors should be more sub-

sidised than others, it is known that too low tariffs result in an inefficient use of water," Asmal said.

The two-day conference is part of his department's present policy formulation process. It is focusing on trade-offs in the equitable, sustainable and efficient supply and use of water.

Asmal emphasised that he was unequivocal regarding payment.

"The user-pays principle must apply and the user must pay the right price," he said.

Asmal warned that South Africa's pending long-term water crisis could cripple the country.

"Unless there is a comprehensive plan to improve dramatically the care we take to manage our sources of water, the efficiency

with which we use water and the equality with which we allocate water, then there is little chance of the sustainable development of South Africa."

Asmal said he had given his staff one instruction for the Water Conservation Campaign: do not talk punitive measures. One does not build easily by merely punishing.

Despite this, yesterday's session was dominated by questions of tariff increases.

Speakers outlined issues in plenary sessions. At today's session delegates will split up into sectors - agriculture, nature conservation, mining and industry, forestry and municipal services, - and will report back their findings to a plenary session this afternoon.

KwaZulu's power bid

Sowetan 3/10/95 (3)

A WEEKEND MEETING of evicted labour tenants in Vryheid, KwaZulu-Natal, has highlighted the lengths to which the province will go to fight its case for more powers.

The meeting, to highlight the tenants' predicament, came after 12 families were evicted from a farm near Louwsberg last week. The families' huts were demolished and two of them had been forced to squat at the roadside because they had nowhere to go.

One of the organisers of the meeting, the Vryheid Farm Evictions Committee, said they knew of at least 350 people (35 families) who had been evicted from Louwsberg and Vryheid since the publication of the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill on June 2.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and KwaZulu-Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose were invited to the meeting to hear for themselves the problems of eviction of black farm dwellers in the district. About 500 people packed the Vryheid Sports Centre to air their grievances.

But instead of devoting itself to addressing the crisis in the area, described by one speaker as "putting Vryheid on the verge of civil war", there were early indications that it would degenerate into a point-scoring exercise.

Hanekom's appeal to "set aside our political differences to find a solution to the real problems", and his warning that those "people who use this (crisis) to turn it into a political event are doing the community a disservice", appeared to fall on deaf ears.

Following Hanekom, Mdlalose said it was unfortunate that land affairs was a central government issue and not an issue for the provincial or local government.

"I don't believe land should be a central government function," he said, "but I'm happy that when he (Hanekom) comes (to KwaZulu-Natal), I can also be there. When he gives his views from his celestial position, I can also hear on behalf of the province."

Mdlalose further indicated that he hoped the meeting would open the way for further talks between the provincial and national government where land affairs were located.

He also alluded to the province's demand that the controversial Ingonyama Trust be assigned to the province as a matter which still had to be settled.

The Ingonyama Trust involved the transfer of almost three million hectares of state land to the trusteeship of Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini by former president FW de Klerk on the eve of the April 1994 election.

A promise by Hanekom which equated the former KwaZulu self-governing territory withbantustans such as Bophuthatswana and Venda

Derek Hanekom goes to the lion's den and faces the wrath of political rival and KwaZulu premier Frank Mdlalose. **Estelle Randall** explains why...



Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom ... came under fire at a land meeting in Vryheid.



KwaZulu-Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose ... unfortunate that land affairs fall under central Government.

also drew fire from Mdlalose and the audience.

"KwaZulu will continue forever," retorted Mdlalose. He appealed to the crowd not to blame Hanekom for the unfortunate comment "because, after all, he doesn't live among us. He's from central government, up above."

In terms of the current Constitution, policy formulation of land affairs is the prerogative of the national government, but implementation of the new land reform programme has been devolved to the provinces.

Examples include the new land reform pilot programme, which consists of one pilot district in each province and which is being managed and by provincial steering committees.

In KwaZulu-Natal, land is one of the key areas of reconstruction. It is the most populous province and more than half its people live in rural areas.

The recently established Commission on Restitution of Land Rights has already received almost half of all its land claims from KwaZulu-Natal - an indication of the importance ordinary people are placing on land access.

While the Ministry of Land Affairs has implemented several measures to give flesh to the new land reform programme - including the Restitution of Land Rights Act - labour tenants remain a vulnerable group.

The Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill gazetted on June 2, proposed far-reaching changes to the insecure tenure of labour tenants.

However, it will only come before Parliament in February 1996.

The Bill subjects farmers who want to evict tenants to specific procedures and rulings from the Land Claims Court. It also entitles labour tenants to acquire land they have historically used and occupied, if the owner is compensated. By enshrining the rights of labour tenants in law, the Bill also aims to encourage parties to seek local solutions.

If Parliament passes the Bill, its protective tenancy aspect will be retrospective to June 2. This means that labour tenants who are evicted may now institute legal proceedings to have the evictions overturned.

A labour tenant means a person, including his or her descendants and immediate family, who on June 2:

- was living on or has had the right to live on a farm; and
- had or has had the right to live on such a farm and to use arable or grazing land on the basis that he or she will provide or has provided labour to the owner or lessee of the farm.

The Bill specifically excludes farmworkers or people who are simply living in housing provided by farmers or lessees of farms. Farmworkers are defined as people employed on a farm in terms of a renewable contract of employment which provides for labour to be paid for mainly in cash and not mainly through the right to occupy and use land.

Small-scale agriculture needs to be developed

(3) 80/11/95

I-CHENG LOH

HOW is SA going to win the development race, in which every country in the world tries to move ahead of the others? Not by fattening a handful of its people. There is already no lack of that in SA.

My conviction is that the only way forward is by making all South Africans — at least the majority of them — free of the vicious cycle of ignorance, disease and poverty.

In industry and commerce, the road forward is to encourage small, medium and micro businesses to make a small capitalist out of everybody. And in agriculture, the only way to do that is through creating small farmers.

The task is how to turn most black farmers, who today are mere farm hands whose livelihood depends on their employers, into self-supporting small farmers and, eventually, into small agri-businessmen.

They must be taught everything about running a small family farm: how to plant, how to weed, how to

apply fertilisers, how to harvest and how to sell their produce. These are the first steps.

After they have saved up some capital, they must then learn how to borrow money, how to plan for expansion, how to organise themselves into co-operatives, how to get better seeds for bigger yields. And finally, they must learn about multicropping and crop rotation, how to specialise, and how to link co-operatives into marketing groups.

This is where Boskop Training Group and other similar non-governmental organisations come in. Two years ago, the embassy of the Republic of China entered into an agreement with the SA department of agriculture to share equally the R10m cost of a training project aimed at teaching marginalised South Africans, especially black women, the basic skills of vegetable farming. This project has now grown into the centrepiece of the agriculture department's RDP programme.

The aim was kept purposely simple: to give their families a more balanced diet, and to give them better cash flow through the sale of what they could not consume themselves.

Another part of the programme is to train farm advisers, or extension workers nominated by and selected from local communities, to enable them to provide advice and assistance to farmers after the basic training. This component of the project is handled by the Lowveld Agricultural College of Nelspruit.

Over the past two years, 16 community-based agricultural projects have been implemented nationwide under this training programme.

They are located in Gauteng, Northern Province, Northwest, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape.

With the exception of the North-

ern Cape, which concentrates on cotton, the remaining 14 projects have all led to the establishment of vegetable farming operations.

All in all, 1 800 small-scale vegetable farmers were taught the basic skills in 300 courses. Training included basic management principles, productivity development, vegetable cultivation skills, erection of fences, and also building skills.

Most of the "graduated" trainees are now practising what they have learned in a sustainable manner. They have taken the first step towards becoming small farmers in the Chinese sense of the word.

The most important aspect of the project is that these were community-driven projects, based on community initiatives. It is the community itself that obtained the land, selected trainees, involved supporting structures and decided on the content of the training programmes.

Most of the areas utilised for these projects were previously inef-

fective as far as agriculture was concerned. They have now been developed as additional agricultural resources for SA. The traditional chiefs, who have control of the use of the land, are also pleased to see that these hitherto wasted lands have become productive.

The project has created much-needed job opportunities for a large group of marginalised people.

The significance of this project is that it proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that there are hundreds of thousands, even millions, of potential small-scale farmers in SA who could become the backbone of the national economy. All it needs is for us to find them and teach them the skills to fulfil that role.

□ I-cheng Loh is the Republic of China's ambassador to SA. This article is an edited extract of a recent address to the annual awards function of the Boskop Training Centre in Potchefstroom.

LETTERS

New water laws will limit usage

3
123
Mar 4/10/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN

Drastic changes to South Africa's water laws, including imposing mandatory consumption limits, are on the cards according to Len Abrams, special adviser to the Department of Water Affairs and Tourism.

Speaking at the National Water Conservation Campaign conference at the World Trade Centre yesterday, Abrams said the Water Law Review was part of the transformation of supply, use and management of water in South Africa. It was inevitable that new legislation would be necessary, he said.

"Because we can't rely on voluntary cutting back, legislation will be necessary to ensure we don't merrily go ahead as though there was no tomorrow. We will have to restrain ourselves through laws," Abrams said.

South Africa's water laws were in a mess and were extremely difficult to apply and administer, he said.

For that reason a thorough process is underway to review the water laws. This started in July last year at a national water conference which resulted in the booklet *You and your water rights*.

Six volumes of public comment were received and are being drawn into a water laws review report, Abrams explained.

The central issue was that the constitution defined the right to water, but it did not define how people should behave regarding that right, Abrams said.

"Our reading is that water is not subject to ownership. But that might be challenged. The implication is that if no-one owns the

LEGISLATION only will protect water supplies, as the public will not cut back usage voluntarily, conference is told

water then it's a question of usage - the right to use and who has these rights, he said.

Declining to comment further as this would anticipate the findings of the Water Law Review process, Abrams said the report by a panel of experts would outline basic principles.

The report would go to the minister by mid November and thereafter to Cabinet and to the public for comment.

"Then it's a matter of taking those principles and drafting a new Water Act White Paper, hopefully by January 1996," Abrams said.

He pointed out that it was part of a number of processes regarding water which were taking place congruently.

The two-day conference, which ended yesterday, would result in a NWCC White Paper. The Water-Supply White Paper which was issued in November 1994, was also part of the transformation process - all of which would form policy and eventually be extended to law.

We have not yet reached the crisis that our neighbours in Zimbabwe have reached, he said.

"We still have time. We have the opportunity to create an integrated system so that we build a culture of conservation and supportive legislation," he told delegates.

R150m loan plan for black farmers

BD 4/10/95 (3)

Louise Cook

PRETORIA — Government yesterday announced a R150m agricultural financial assistance programme which would enable thousands of small and beginner black farmers to qualify for production loans of up to R50 000.

But Deputy Agriculture Minister Thoko Didiza said that in terms of the five-year plan, state credit for commercial farmers would be phased out, except in the case of major disasters. Government wanted an increased role for private sector financing institutions in servicing commercial farmers.

Government's Agricultural Credit Board had over the past decade loaned billions of rands to commercial farmers to buy state land, consolidate debt and provide disaster aid, she said.

The new programme would for the first time make credit available to beginner black farmers to buy production inputs such as seed and machinery.

Earlier this year the Agricultural Credit Board extended R5 000 loans to about 12 000 black farmers as a trial run, but the new programme provided for loans of up to R50 000.

"The department has come up with a new policy on agriculture which makes a clean break with the past."

Policy changes included wider access to financial services by small farmers and rural entrepreneurs, the amendment of the Agricultural Credit Act, resolving the debt problem of commercial farmers and the settlement of about 1 300 black farmers on private

Continued on Page 2

Agriculture (3)

Continued from Page 1

BD 4/10/95
and state farms. Previously disadvantaged farmers would be the main beneficiaries of the settlement programmes. These would be run over and above any land affairs department settlement programmes.

Didiza said a further R60m had been allocated as part of a project financing scheme. She declined to give details of the scheme, but it was believed some of the money would finance

a "village banking" initiative, a disaster insurance scheme and "premier projects" mooted at the meeting.

There was concern about a proposal that market-related interest rates should replace the 8% rate charged by the Agricultural Credit Board. Commercial farmers have been the main beneficiaries of the subsidised rate. But World Bank reports and international experience changed sentiment and the Agriculture White Paper, released earlier this year, stipulated that government loans carry market-related interest rates. Sources said a 14% interest rate had been mooted.

World Bank backs water plan

Michael Moon

THE World Bank has thrown its weight behind new government proposals to introduce economic, or "right", pricing for water.

It was an appropriate option for a water-scarce country such as SA, World Bank economist John Roome said yesterday.

Economic pricing would result in improved water conservation, the correct allocation of water resources and facilitate financing of water supply projects, Roome told a water conservation conference at Kempton Park.

"Moving towards economic pricing is clearly a very good thing to do. It sends out the right economic signals."

A water affairs department discussion document on the issue was earlier tabled at the conference.

Roome said the reality of the situation was that if there was

no change in policy to effect a more rational use of water within the country, SA would be forced into undertaking more and more expensive water projects such as transfers from the Zambezi and desalination plants.

If economic pricing was introduced in parallel with welfare measures, such as "lifeline tariffs", for the poor it could be a "socially just" solution to SA's water scarcity problem.

The welfare question needed to be considered separately from that of water provision because there was a danger of losing sight of the objective of delivery of service.

Lifeline tariffs currently in operation were poorly targeted and were difficult to manage. They were being financed and implemented by local municipalities, which was an unnecessary burden on them and reduced efficiencies of delivery, said Roome.

804/10/95
He believed means tests and a government voucher system for poor people should be part of a new pricing policy.

If local utilities were assured of supplementary payment from government via the voucher scheme there would be no disincentive to providing supplies to poor areas.

This posed the question of how the subsidy would be financed, and he believed it could be done through surpluses accumulated from effective application of economic pricing.

Roome emphasised that introduction of a new pricing policy would have to be phased in over time. He believed once government had decided to move towards such a policy it needed to fully inform the public.

Roome said the application of World Bank expertise in introducing economic pricing would be up to government.

"We would very much like to be involved as SA is at the in-

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ternational cutting edge on this issue," he said.

Other aspects of the policy question which interested the bank were poverty assessment, urban service delivery, regional co-operation, and payment for the Lesotho Highlands project, in which it was a partner.

Water Affairs deputy director-general Mike Muller said he believed economic pricing would be very supportive of the reconstruction and development programme (RDP).

The water sector had already demonstrated the approach that needed to be taken to make the RDP work, and the mooted pricing policy was similarly aimed at linking optimal use of resources and investment with delivery of service.

By charging the true cost of water, funds would be made available for service delivery, said Muller.

Comment: Page 8

Hanekom warns KwaZulu over land grab

~~21 SEP~~ (3)

Star 5/10/95

■ BY MONDLI MAKHANYA
POLITICAL REPORTER

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom yesterday warned the KwaZulu-Natal government that re-enactment of the Ingonyama Trust Act would be unconstitutional and said the central Government would not "stand by and watch this happen".

Hanekom said "all parts of the Government are obliged to re-

spect and comply with the constitution" in terms of which the provincial government did not have the power to enact such legislation.

He was reacting to the KwaZulu-Natal government's drafting of legislation designed to put 93% of the land of the former KwaZulu and some areas in the former Natal under the ownership of Ingonyama Trust. The Ingonyama Trust administers tribal land

on behalf of the Zulu king.

The new legislation would effectively put the land - which includes townships, game parks and dams - in the control of the IFP-led provincial government.

This is set to exacerbate tension between Hanekom and the provincial government following threats by the government to take Hanekom to court over the Land Reform Bills which, among other things, reduce traditional lead-

ers' powers in allocating communally held land.

The Act transferring the land was passed in the dying days of the old SA parliament. The Act was the subject of the first major Cabinet dispute last year.

This action was also in contravention of a Cabinet decision last year that the decision be the subject of consultation between national and provincial governments.

"The intended legislation clearly is contrary to the interests of the people of that province, something which the provincial government should be well aware of. The question thus arises - why aggravate an issue that already is causing numerous problems for the people of the area? It seems clear to me that there can be no other motive involved than an overtly political one," said Hanekom.

Producers, govt in a battle over levies

(3) BD 5/10/95
Louise Cook

THE Pretoria Supreme Court has again become the battleground in the bitter fight between government and producers over agricultural marketing and levy payments.

Two abattoirs in Cullinan and Louis Trichardt, backed by the Organisation of Livestock Producers which represents 582 producers, have applied to the court to declare the Agricultural Marketing Act invalid and to dissolve the Meat Board.

The applicants named Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk, the national marketing council, the Meat Board and 14 other agricultural boards as respondents.

They said in their court application the Agricultural Marketing Act and the meat scheme had violated the Bill of Rights in the constitution and that the compulsory levy system and surplus removal (meat) scheme had been applied in a discriminatory and unreasonable way. The applicants also asked

Continued on Page 2

Levies

(3) BD 5/10/95
Continued from Page 1

that the case be referred to the Constitutional Court.

Producers' organisation chairman Nils Dittmer said the action was brought against the agricultural establishment in retaliation against the levy system. The organisation was awaiting support from another 18 organisations which had pledged their support for the court action.

He declined to name the organisations but the Free Market Foundation had said in the past that it would support the action to "ensure that the constitution was not meaningless".

Dittmer said the producers' organisation had won a Supreme Court ac-

tion against the Meat Board last year when a ruling was obtained that the agriculture minister did not have the power to force abattoirs to enter into a contract (to charge levies) with the Meat Board on behalf of producers.

The respondents have until November 22 to respond.

Meanwhile, sources said the outcome of the court case was significant because it was likely to affect the draft marketing of the agricultural products Bill which was to replace the Agricultural Marketing Act. In terms of the draft Bill, agricultural markets would not be completely free because the minister would still appoint members to the boards and levies would still be charged to farmers.

The draft Bill was approved by the Cabinet in July and was expected to go before Parliament in November.

ARL 9/10/95

Hanekom soothes land 'differences'

CITRUSDAL. — Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom says there is no contradiction between the Department of Agriculture's farmer settlement scheme and land-reform pilot projects.

In a row between the two departments in recent weeks, Mr Hanekom has been accused by Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk of interfering in agricultural affairs.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Thoko Didiza earlier announced in Pretoria 1 300 black farmers would receive grants amounting to R60 million to settle them on state land administered by the agriculture department.

"As long as there are no land purchases involved, there is no contradiction," Mr Hanekom said. — Sapa.

ANC slammed on property rights

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

THE ANC continued to talk with a forked tongue when it came to the protection of property rights under the constitution, the DP leader in the Gauteng legislature, Mr Peter Leon, said yesterday.

"The ANC continues to pretend that it backs the right to property in the final constitution.

"In reality, the ANC is committed to a radical programme of land redistribution without compensation to property owners," he said in reaction to the latest proposal on property rights in the draft bill of rights. (22) (3)

"While the DP accepts that land reform measures are necessary in our unequal society, the ANC's proposal that land reform take precedence over property rights would ride a coach and horses through the protection of property rights," he said.

ET 11/10/95

Landmarks among sites targeted

Talks on land claims under way

Star 11/10/95

(3)

■ BY PRISCILLA SINGH

Negotiations have started with people claiming back land they lost through the Group Areas Act - including such landmarks as the Oriental Plaza in Johannesburg and the Reserve Bank building and Sammy Marks Square in Pretoria.

The properties are being claimed through the Commission on the Restitution of Land.

Commission secretary Daan van der Westhuizen said all the role players - the present owners, the State and the claimants - had until February next year to settle the claims through negotiations. The Land Claims Court will then deal with matters not settled.

Four members of the court, led by advocate Fikile Bam, had been appointed to adjudicate.

Van der Westhuizen said there were three possibilities for settling a claim: "The original land can be given back to the original owner, the claimant can be offered alternative State land, or the claimant can be compensated.

"If the claim can be settled among the parties, it will then be referred to the court, where it will be ratified. If the claim can-

not be settled, it will be referred to the court to decide the settlement between the landowner and the claimant," said Van der Westhuizen.

He said that in the Reserve Bank claim, the first option could not be exercised because of the development and status of the building.

Claims for lost land were lodged before the establishment of the commission and were previously handled by the Advance Commission on Land Allocation.

A large number of claims fell outside the scope of the Commission on the Restitution of Land officially established on March 1 this year.

Van der Westhuizen said that more than 5 200 claims had been received - 2 200 rural and 3 000 urban. These had been registered and were being investigated.

Among sites being targeted countrywide are Cavendish Square in Cape Town, the Cape Technikon, the N1 City shopping complex between Parow and Goodwood in the Western Cape, the Pavilion Centre in KwaZulu-Natal, the Natal Newspapers building in Durban, various industrial sites near the Durban central business district, and sections of land now belonging to the University of Natal.

Land reform clause closes loophole in constitution

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Political parties yesterday agreed in principle on a right to property and land reform clause in the new Bill of Rights which will close a constitutional loophole hampering government land reform.

The deal was clinched after months of haggling and, in the words of Constitutional Assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa, a day of "underground manoeuvres" between parties in the assembly deadlock-breaking committee. Technical experts who assisted were told to formulate the new clause based on agreed "broad outlines".

An elated Ramaphosa said: "We are tantalisingly close to a major breakthrough. We should all applaud."

The day's progress was achieved after the ANC secured the NP and DP's support for linking the right to property and land reform — something absent in the present Bill of Rights. It also coincided with the ANC dropping its

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(3)

opposition, as expressed by, among others, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, to a property clause in the Bill of Rights.

ANC chief negotiator Baleka Kgositsile said afterwards the problem with the interim constitution was it only dealt with land restitution, whereas the new clause would also incorporate land redistribution and the land tenure system. She said, as a result of the "limited" interim constitution, "property owners have been able to resist land reform measures undertaken by the land affairs department."

"This time we are actually going to limit the use of the property clause as an obstacle," Kgositsile said. "We have entrenched the right to property as well as addressed the question of land hunger through land reform."

She added: "Those who were disadvantaged in the past will now be able to have their problems addressed in an equitable manner." She described the agreement as "absolutely historic".

September's water consumption 7% over target

Water savings still not enough

Star 12/10/95

(3) (123)

■ BY TROYE LUND

Rand Water's customers appear to be ignoring the urgent appeals to save water - savings figures for September, released last night, are dismally worse than August's.

Greater Johannesburg and East Rand towns were singled out as the worst culprits and face over R3-million in fines for September.

Next on Rand Water's blacklist is Pretoria TMC with a R1-million penalty.

Mining companies were the most conscientious consumers but will still be liable for a R500 000 fine.

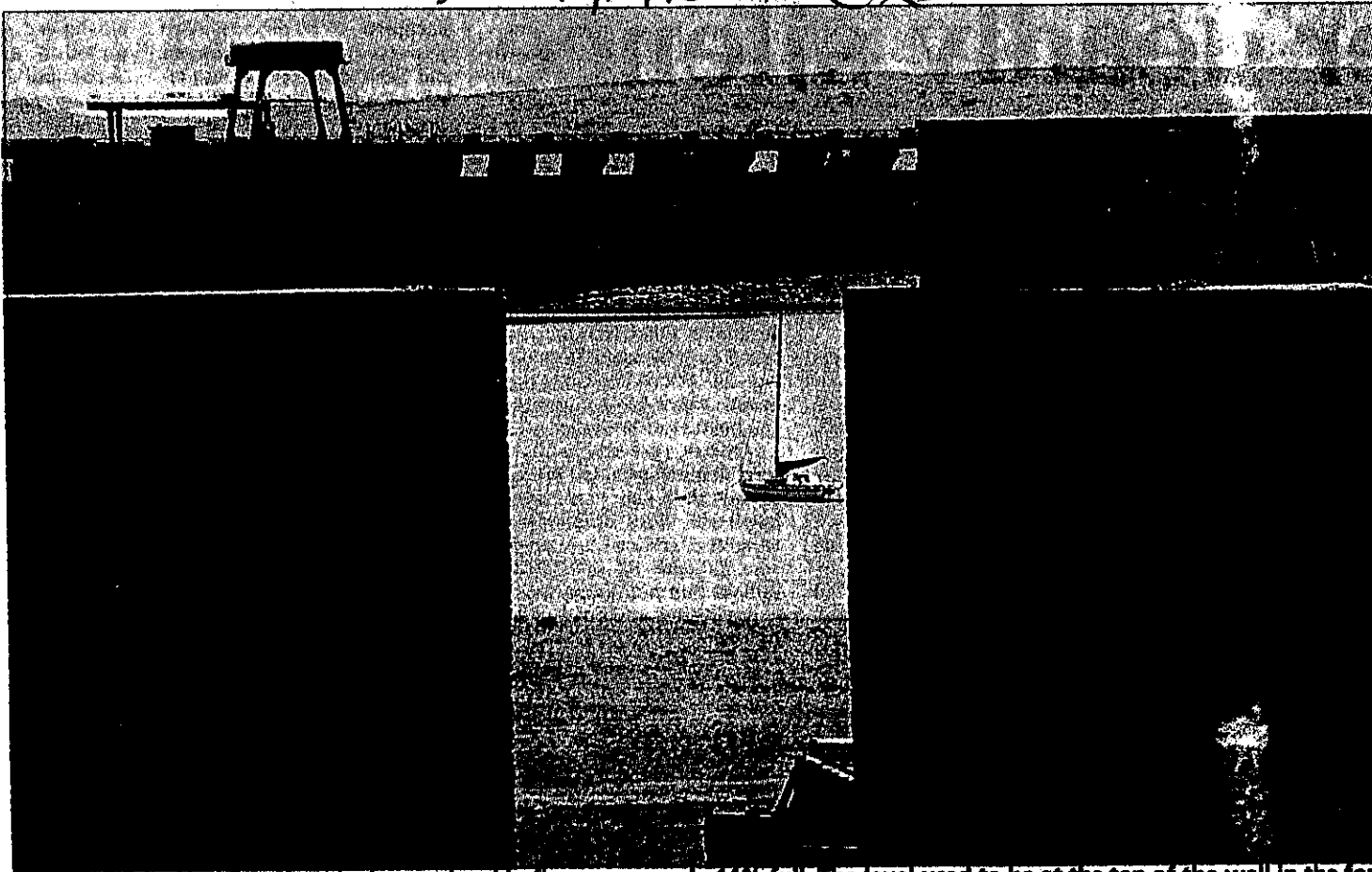
A general target of a 20% saving was set by the Department of Water Affairs when additional tariffs were first imposed in August. September savings are 7% below this target.

"Meeting the target is essential is to stop our primary sources of water drying up by next year," said Rand Water spokesman, Archer Davis. He added that the penalty per kilolitre would go up by R1 a month - by December, R5 will be charged per kilolitre over the prescribed limit.

Recent rains had not helped the "crisis still worsening each day" because there was no runoff into storage dams in the catchment area.

According to Davis there were complex factors which influenced areas where consumption remained high.

"In many of the deprived communities, the reticulation infrastructures have deteriorated and have not been suitably installed



Dry run ... the Vaal Dam is at its lowest level in five years - only 14% full. The level used to be at the top of the wall in the foreground; and boats passed through the opening.

PICTURE: THYS DULLAART

or maintained by municipal local authorities. This has itself been influenced by numerous logistical difficulties ranging from crime to threats on municipal workers to a lack of appreciation of the importance of individual responsibility in this regard," said Davis.

Davis is convinced that the punitive tariffs are an effective way of "keeping the water crisis top of mind" because the impact on the community is immediately felt.

Rand Water is also concerned that much of the water in poorer

areas is lost through leaking pipes which cash-strapped local authorities cannot afford to fix.

Although acknowledging the difficult circumstances, Rand Water urged their customers to realise the "danger of losing this precious commodity".

"It is remarkable that the mining industry has managed to put effective systems in place to conserve as much as they have. It says a great deal for all employed in the industry and I hope others will take heed of our cautions," Davis said.

Deadline for land claims

(3) Star 12/10/95

Claimants to land in the Albertsville, Pageview and Alexandra areas of Johannesburg and Sandton have been given 60 days to lodge claims with the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights.

Claims have to be lodged with the Commission at Private Bag

X883, Pretoria 0001.

Emma Mashinini, regional land claims commissioner for Gauteng, North West, Northern Province and Mpumalanga, said the notice applied only to people who had not yet lodged a claim in respect of the advertised areas. - Pretoria Bureau.

New political row brews over land reform

BD 12/10/95 (3)

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — A new political row broke out yesterday between the NP and ANC over the inclusion of both property rights and land reform clauses in the new Bill of Rights.

NP senior negotiator Sheila Camerer disputed inferences by ANC negotiators, Constitutional Assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa and technical experts drafting the new Bill that parties had agreed in principle to the inclusion of both.

She conceded that the NP had not voiced its objection to the announcement, after intense behind-the-scenes negotiations in the Assembly deadlock-breaking committee on Tuesday, that broad agreement had been reached on the inclusion of both. She said the NP was not part of the private talks.

However, Ramaphosa, also ANC secretary-general, retorted yesterday: "The NP did not voice any opposition at the time and they know that."

Camerer contended the NP had merely given its go-ahead for the reformulation of the clause to facilitate further

negotiation. "There is no agreement in principle. The only agreement reached was that the technical advisers should try again to come up with a draft that, in the light of the discussions, is more acceptable to all parties."

Camerer's view differed sharply from that of ANC negotiator Baleka Kgositsile, who described Tuesday's proceedings as "absolutely historic".

Camerer said the NP position remained that while the property rights clause should be included in the Bill of Rights, land reform should be dealt with separately.

She denied the ANC claim that the current property rights clause inhibited government land reform. According to the ANC, the constitution referred only to restitution, and not land redistribution and the land tenure system.

Ramaphosa said the ANC "will never" accept a property rights clause without reference to land reform, as in the present Bill of Rights.

He said the NP could raise its objections next week, when negotiators were expected to debate a first draft of the new constitution.

Rand Water fines total R13m

BD 12/10/95

Michael Moon

FINES totalling more than R13m have been imposed by Rand Water on bulk consumers in its distribution area for failure to meet the monthly water savings target of 20% in September.

An overall saving of 13,2% was achieved by metro councils, local councils, mines and regional services councils during the month.

This is a decline from the 14,2% saving recorded in August, the first month of a five-month campaign to cut water consumption through the imposition of escalating penalty charges for overuse.

A Rand Water statement released yesterday said although there had been light rains in the Gauteng area, there had been no run-off into major storage dams in the catchment area.

The water crisis was "becoming more serious by the day". The statement appealed to the public to intensify savings to "help secure our supplies for the next year or so".

Free State towns were the best per-

formers for the second month running, notching up a monthly saving of 22,5% on average consumption.

Next best was the mining industry with 21,4%, slightly down on its 21,7% for August.

The worst collective performers were the regional services councils which used 14% more than their usual amount and received a R20 810 fine. The services councils only consume an average of 1-megalitre a day.

This compares with the Johannesburg transitional metropolitan council which swallowed 934 megalitres a day during the 1994/95 year.

Johannesburg earned itself a whopping R3,35m fine after achieving a saving of only 14,1% for September. However, this was a big improvement on the 9,6% monthly average saving recorded between May and September.

The biggest fine was slapped on the East Rand towns, which will have to cough up an extra R3,66m for the month after managing only a 10,9% saving (7,8%).

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Lack of water seen as a threat to top fiscal areas

BD 12/10/95 (15) (3) (12)

Edward West and Kathryn Strachan

CAPE TOWN — The success of two of SA's top economic provinces, Gauteng and Western Cape, could become the direct cause of their economic failure as water shortages made it difficult to cope with high population growth in future, said the University of Stellenbosch's Graduate School of Business.

The university said in its findings in an economic competitiveness survey of the nine provinces that Western Cape and Gauteng would be faced with water shortage problems by 2010, making it difficult to cope with high population growth rates.

SA's population and populations of countries north of its borders would tend to migrate where opportunities existed, the survey said. Water availability could, in future, necessitate balanced regional development.

The survey showed Gauteng contributed almost 38% to SA's GDP, and its density of economic production was almost R5m/km², about 14 times that of the second largest provincial economy, KwaZulu-Natal. Belgium's average economic density was R20m/km².

Mpumalanga was the best economic performer in the early 1990s at 2% growth a year. Northern Province and Western Cape were the only other two

provinces to report positive growth, albeit it very moderate. The conclusion was that the economies of the provinces were in an "extremely tenuous situation".

Current investment ratios in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape were barely sufficient to maintain capital stock. Ratios in the other provinces were significantly below replacement rate, indicating the deteriorating trend of SA's competitiveness.

On the respondents' perspectives on government, the survey deduced that government, influenced by pressure groups, was perceived to be an obstruction to business development in the three largest provinces. There was little confidence in justice and security systems, and fiscal policy was seen to discourage entrepreneurial activity.

The large differences in the poverty gap between the provinces suggested a likelihood that the economic dependence of poorer provinces on wealthier provinces would remain with SA for some time.

A common denominator in the study was the low ratings awarded in all nine provinces to aspects of management relating to human development. Aspects covered willingness to delegate, intercultural understanding, social responsibility and employee turnover.

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Spotlight on African housing

HOUSING REPORTER

About 450 delegates from 53 African nations will next week be taking part in the All African Housing Ministers' Conference, which will focus on living conditions in the continent.

The three-day conference is expected to draft a position for Africa on living conditions.

The draft will be presented to the UN Commission for Human

Settlements' Habitat Two conference in Istanbul, Turkey, in June. Habitat Two aims to make the world's cities, towns and villages healthier, safer, more just and economically sustainable.

It will also focus on cities and townships as they are affected by urbanisation and influx.

The first Habitat conference was held 20 years ago in Vancouver, Canada, and drew international attention to problems in

both rural and urban settlements.

Habitat Two's aim is to have a blueprint for urbanisation ready by the year 2000. This will be particularly important for South Africa, as the country is faced with a 1,5-million housing unit backlog estimated to be growing annually by 200 000.

The conference will include participation of the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

(Handwritten initials)

Star 13/10/95

SA to strengthen ties with Cuba

The South African Government was totally opposed to the isolation of Cuba in the socio-political and economic spheres, Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said during his visit to Cuba yesterday.

Speaking at a lunch hosted by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Gonzales, he said it was for this reason that South Africa had voted for the lifting of the US blockade against Cuba at the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In his speech, Nzo conveyed President Nelson Mandela's "warm greetings" to Cuban President Fidel Castro and reiterated Mandela's invitation to Castro to visit South Africa.

He said it would be the worst form of political immorality and gross ingratitude if Africa were to forget the "tremendous sacrifices" the Cuban people made by supporting the freedom struggles of the peoples of southern Africa.

"Many countries of Africa have actually benefited from the dedicated services of your specialists in many fields, more particularly in support of medical services of many developing African countries.

"South Africa is part of that Africa which will never forget your internationalist solidarity. We take the opportunity of my first visit to your country to convey this deep gratitude to your

people," said Nzo.

SA's establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba had bolstered ties in various fields, such as culture, socio-economic issues and trade, he added.

South African exports to Cuba had increased from R36,5-million in 1993 to R41,61-million in 1994, while Cuba's exports to South Africa amounted to R14,6-million last year and were expected to increase in the future.

"I am pleased to learn that your embassy in Pretoria is in the process of planning seminars in South Africa to inform the South African business sector about business opportunities in Cuba," Nzo said. - Sapa.

Beijing names new envoy to Pretoria

China's key envoy in Africa has been reassigned to Beijing and appointed assistant minister for foreign affairs (Africa and Middle East affairs).

Li Peidong, who has ambassador status but is officially described as the director of the Chinese Cultural Centre, is to leave his post in Pretoria at the end of the month. He will be replaced by

Beijing's ambassador to Harare, Gu Xiner, a veteran diplomat.

South Africa and the People's Republic of China do not have formal diplomatic relations. South Africa recognises the Republic of China (Taiwan) instead.

Li, who has been in Pretoria for 15 months, said he would pursue opportunities to ensure that changes took place.

The two governments have held tentative talks about establishing formal ties since 1990, in the face of a concerted effort by Taiwan to maintain ties with South Africa. The Taipei government has invited numerous parliamentarians to the island and has poured millions of rands into South Africa to boost its standing locally. - Pretoria Bureau.

Farmers' land demands on union agenda

(Handwritten circled number 3)

BY NORMAN CHANDLER

PRETORIA BUREAU

Star 13/10/95

South African farmers are preparing to make a last-ditch attempt to get the Government to backtrack on major aspects of its land distribution and restitution proposals.

They are to make their stand at next week's South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) national congress.

The Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) and the Natal Agricultural Union are putting forward resolutions criticising government infringements on property rights, and demanding that property rights be enshrined in the final constitution.

They are also concerned about the implications of the new Labour Relations Act and that the SAAU had not been given an opportunity to make recommendations to a parliamentary committee.

The SAAU, which represents about 60 000 farmers, will also be changing its constitution.

An important amendment, to be discussed at the meeting to be held near Vereeniging on October 17 and 18, is one which allows for 90 representatives - on a proportional basis - from all provinces, subject to the number of registered members in the provinces, gross value of production, contributions made to the financing of the SAAU, and the area they service as farmers.

This is regarded as opening the door to subsistence farmers who have in the past not been able to be part of the largely whites-only farming unions.

The TAU will also raise the crime issue, which "together with escalating unemployment and illegal immigration ... disrupts agriculture while increasing production and insurance costs".

Truth, rights & equality

The four ground-breaking commissions created by the new constitution — covering land rights, human rights, gender equality and truth and reconciliation — are finally beginning to take shape.

SA is watching closely — especially the Truth Commission — to see whether the parties in Cabinet will be tempted to strike deals over the appointment of politically aligned commissioners instead of choosing the tough-minded, independent people necessary for the job. *Fm 13/10/95*

During the drafting of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Bill, the Democratic Party argued — unsuccessfully — that it should not be left to President Nelson Mandela, in consultation with the Cabinet, to appoint truth commissioners.

Cabinet constitutes the very leaders and parties who conducted the violent struggles of the past and the temptation to strike deals would be very great, the DP warned.

It suggested a process similar to that used in selecting the Human Rights Commission (HRC) should be followed — nominations to be made to a multiparty parliamentary committee for approval by a 75% majority of both houses sitting together.

Instead, the President appointed a seven-member panel — representing parties in the Cabinet, with the addition of the Freedom Front — to receive nominations from the public and to conduct interviews.

The composition of the panel has therefore not eliminated the danger that the commission will be carved up between the previously warring parties. Though this kind of inclusivity may achieve balance, it is no substitute for real independence.

DP MP Dene Smuts says: "It is crucial to the success and credibility of the Truth Commission that truly independent commissioners be appointed — not just a rainbow of rogue parties' representatives."

Public interest in the commission is considerable, and more than 100 nominations have already been received. The deadline is

October 14 and the commission is supposed to be operational before the end of the year.

The HRC got off the ground in Pretoria last week by electing the Rev Barney Pityana, a senior research officer at the University of Cape Town's department of religious studies, as chairman at its first meeting.

Pityana is a former director of the World Council of Churches' programme to combat racism and was an associate of Steve Biko.

He says the commission aims to establish its independence and presence and to make itself accessible to all South Africans as quickly as possible.

The HRC must promote the protection and awareness of fundamental rights and may even initiate its own investigations into alleged rights abuses and assist victims in securing redress.

It could double for the Commission on Gender Equality, which is being facilitated by controversial legislation which seeks to endow it with powers of search and seizure to investigate violations of gender rights.

The legislation has yet to be reviewed by the Justice Committee and may be referred back to its originators — an ad hoc parliamentary committee chaired by ANC MP Ruth Mompoti, who hopes it will be accorded urgent priority when parliament resumes in February.

By contrast, the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights has been quick off the mark. It has received more than 4 000 claims since it began operating in March this year.

In terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, passed in November 1994, the commission may compensate or restore the land rights of those who lost land because of racially discriminatory legislation passed after June 1913. The Act also establishes a Land Claims Court to review each case and enable final settlement through a court order.

The court has taken longer to get going. Four male appointments have been made by Mandela, acting on the recommendations of the Judicial Services Commission which received nominations from the public. But affirmative action critics are still waiting to see if a fifth judge — a woman — will be added to the panel.

Fikile Bam, of the Johannesburg law firm Deneys Reitz, has been appointed court president. The other judges are: former National Peace Secretariat chairman Antonie Gildenhuys, Cape human rights lawyer Alan Dodson and former Black Lawyers' Association executive director Justice Mqoloto.

Meanwhile, the number of unresolved claims awaiting the court's adjudication increases daily and the commission is anxious that it becomes operational before the end of the year.

It's spy vs spy at UDW

MLT 13-19/10/95

The goings-on at the University of Durban-Westville have all the ingredients of a spy novel, reports **Philippa Garson**

THE plot twists and turns in a most confusing way, the players are not what they appear to be, and power struggles and mysterious attacks and subterfuge are the order of the day at the University of Durban-Westville.

Members of staff have received death threats, had their offices and homes burgled, been at the receiving end of vicious smear campaigns and have effectively been chased off campus. The conflict is polarising the university along racial lines and bringing the campus to a halt.

UDW rector Marcus Balintulo, who has taken steps to ensure his own safety after receiving threats, said unless a commission of inquiry exposed the root cause of the conflict, which is polarising the campus along racial lines — with African students (now a majority on campus) and Asian administrative staff seemingly pitted against each other — the viability of the campus was endangered.

Now local press reports are pointing fingers at renegade intelligence agents from the former regime as the culprits behind the campus' destabilisation.

The central protagonists involved in the most recent conflict are the head of the sociology department, Argentinian Ronaldo Munck (who has the support of the outgoing SRC and many students and academics) and a lecturer in the department, Ashwin Desai. Desai has the support of the

Combined Staff Association (Comsa), which represents the interests of the mainly Asian and non-academic university employees.

The conflict between Munck and Desai feeds into existing tensions between African students eager to transform the university from an apartheid-based institution for Asians to one more reflective of the country's demography, on the one hand, and a section of predominantly Asian, non-academic staff members anxious to retain their jobs, on the other.

The *Mail & Guardian* has been reliably informed that the National Intelligence Agency — which openly came on to the campus to investigate the cause of the conflict — has pinpointed Desai as the central destabilising agent on the campus. The NIA report is currently in the hands of the education ministry.

Conflict developed between the two men when Munck arrived on campus last year and — along with five other academics — openly criticised the workings of Comsa. Then came the intimidation and threats and mobilisation of students against him, and Munck stepped down as head of department. Students and staff have since come out in support of him and he has been reinstated.

But, after being threatened, burgled, having his car tyres slashed repeatedly and being forced into hiding, Munck is in no mood to stay

around. He is leaving UDW to take up a post in the United Kingdom.

Desai, beaten up by unknown people in August after he came out in support of the Asian catering staff, against student demands to bring in a private catering company to cook traditional African food, is also in and out of hiding. He has been accused by several sources of being intent on destabilising the university to keep it out of the ANC's control and to stall its path towards transformation.

These sources allege that the attacks on Munck are simply the latest in a series of attacks orchestrated by Desai and his supporters in Comsa on a string of academics who have since left the campus — including Mala Singh, Mike Sutcliffe and Sbu Ndebele.

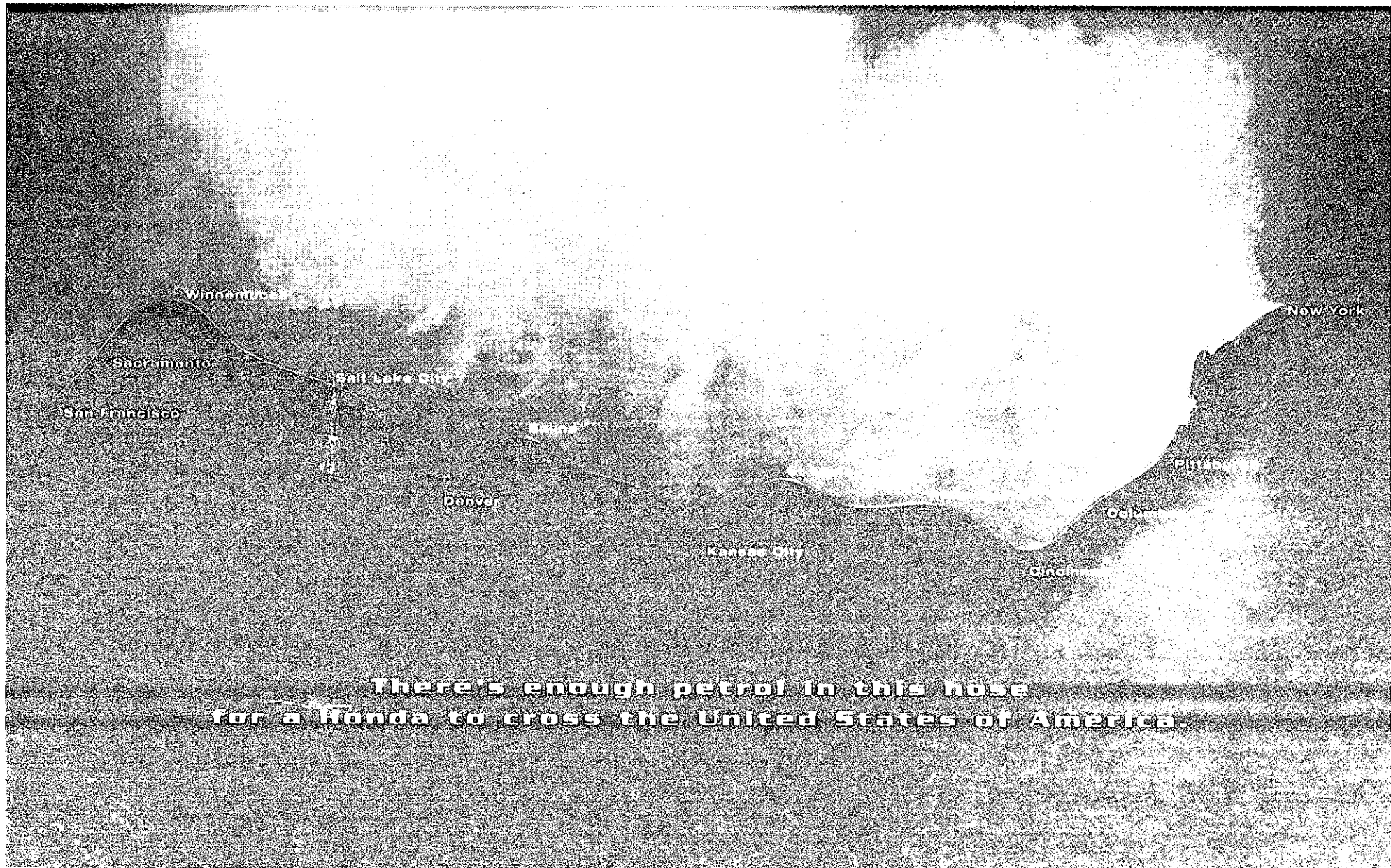
Desai himself has been the victim of racist slanders for defending the interests of the mainly Asian workforce on campus. Desai admits to being "a stirrer", but categorically denies playing a destabilising role on campus and believes he is being targeted for supporting the workers on campus.

Meanwhile, Munck has been branded by other, anonymous sources, as working for the existing National Intelligence Agency to marginalise left-wing, "Trotskyite" opponents of the Government of National Unity associated with Comsa. Munck scoffs at this, but admits to co-operating with the NIA agents who openly came onto campus to investigate the problems.

● Garson has received a number of intimidating phone calls while researching this story.



Open Africa: Malian master tailor Bakroba Cisse shows off one of his creations to a showgoer in traditional Ndebele dress at the Afro-Arab Trade Fair, currently under way at Nasrec PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD



There's enough petrol in this hose for a Honda to cross the United States of America.

It's 4711 kilometres from San Francisco to New York. A journey so vast it crosses four time zones. And yet our latest Honda will use just over one and-a-half litres of petrol if it were to make the trip: the amount of petrol in the rubber hose above.

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Water crisis: It's not about when or how much you can water your garden. It's about how

Abuse behind the

Eddie Koch

A FRONT-PAGE article in a national newspaper recently reported on how the Johannesburg city council was encouraging suburban residents to spy on neighbours who might be illegally watering their gardens.

The report was a classic example of the way ordinary folk who water their gardens or clean their motor cars with hosepipes have been identified as the main culprits for South Africa's present water crisis — and have been subjected to the only major efforts to conserve this resource.

But the story of the Olifants River (see below) shows that the country's flood of water problems has at its fountainhead a body of water law made up of regulations that were drafted up to 300 years ago when water scarcity was not a problem.

Two primary legal constraints are 'private water' and 'riparian rights'. Private water essentially includes rainfall, soil water and ground water

occurring on or underneath private land, together with streams which rise and flow over a single piece of private land. The state has little control over what a private landowner does with his private water. South African water law does not recognise the hydrological cycle as an indivisible continuum, nor does it acknowledge water as a national asset," says Simon Forster, special adviser to Water Minister Kader Asmal.

The average irrigation water required for one hectare of land is enough to meet the domestic needs of almost 900 people a year

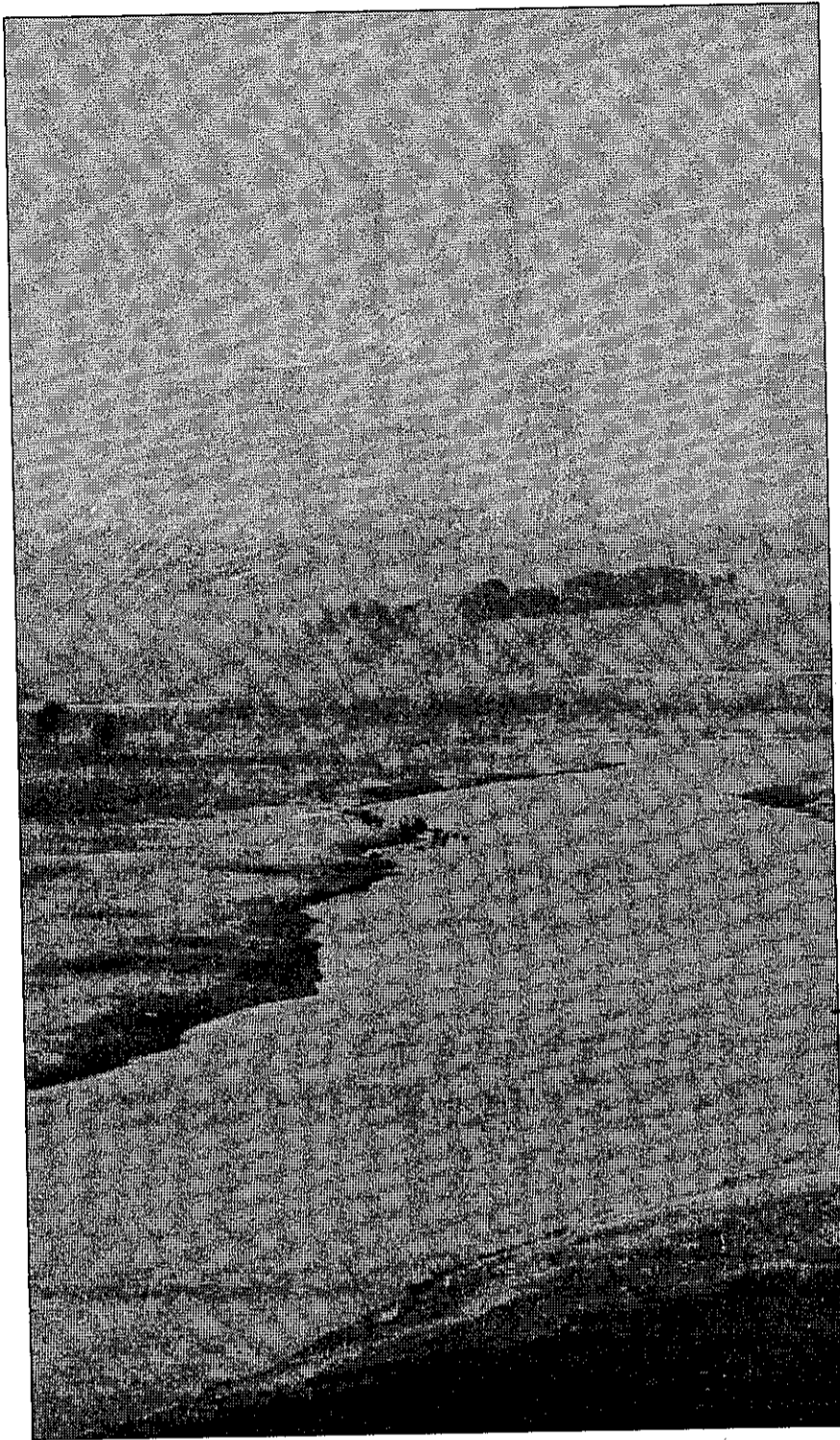
"Water flowing in a public stream (any stream which is not deemed to be private) is public water. However private landowners can and do have rights to divert and use a portion of both the normal and surplus flow of a public stream. Riparian water

rights from part of the title deeds of land and were originally granted when river utilisation was negligible. Today, with the immense pressure on water resources, riparian land owners are technically and legally capable of pumping many rivers dry, particularly during low-flow periods."

Forster estimates that more than 65 percent of all water currently used in South Africa is either privately owned or used under historically obtained riparian rights. Private water used up by the accelerated pumping of groundwater, dryland and rain-fed farming — including forest plantations — and the proliferation of small dams on farms has resulted in a huge decrease in water reaching rivers.

Says Forster: "When viewed in conjunction with the expansion in irrigation that has taken place during the last two decades, the conclusion can be made that a relatively small number of landowners now control the greater portion of the nation's utilisable water."

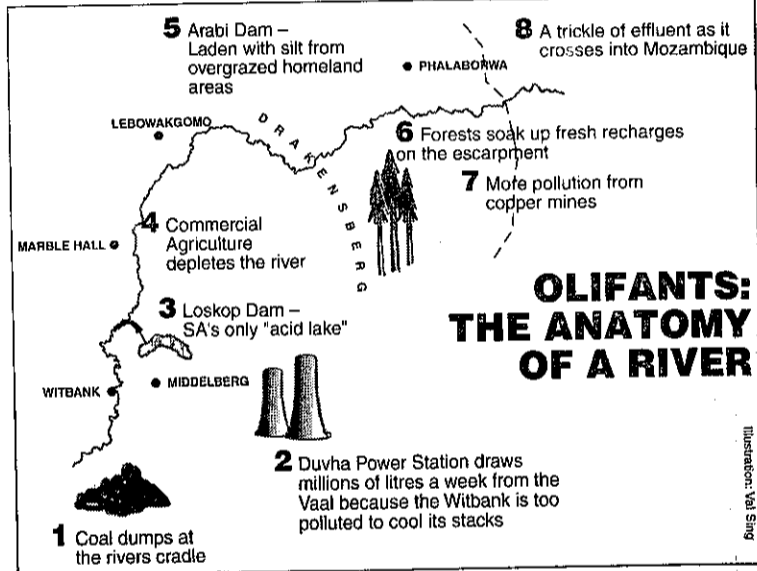
He points out that the average



Duvha power station near Witbank was built there so it uses the Olifants River for cooling. But the Olifants' water is so polluted that the power station must draw millions of litres a week from the Vaal instead PHOTOGRAPH: NAASHON ZALK

A river dammed and destroyed

MG 13-19/10/95
To trace the course of the Olifants River is to trace a history of appalling environmental degradation, writes **Eddie Koch**



LOOK at a map of South Africa and you will see sprinkled over it names that reveal how rivers were once venerated by the early inhabitants, black and white, of this country. Amanzimtoti, the Sweetness of Water; Bloemfontein, the Fountain of Flowers; and Witwatersrand, the Ridge of White Waters, are just some of the prominent ones.

Yet this respect for rivers has been ignored in the way natural water in South Africa has been managed over the last three decades — a time in which a small group of powerful landowners and industrialists have been able to gouge out a huge gap between these beautiful names on the map and the barren reality on the ground they describe.

Take the Olifants. There can be few rivers in the world that have been manipulated, twisted, polluted, dammed and denuded like this one has. It begins near the town of Trichard in Mpumalanga province, surrounded by coal dumps that seep sulphur and other industrial toxins into its cradle.

From there the river flows northwards, through other collieries, to another misnamed place: the Witbank (White Banks) Dam.

A massive coal-fired power station called Duvha was built on the edge of this dam so it could draw water for cooling from it. By the time the Olifants River gets here, though, it is so polluted with sulphates and

salts that its water creates a thick scale on Duvha's cooling towers and threatens to corrode them. The power station now draws millions of litres a week from the Vaal for cooling.

From Witbank, the Olifants pushes further north, through more coalfields scattered with ochre-coloured effluent dams that leach into the rivers' supplies, until it reaches the Loskop Dam which Simon Forster, special adviser to Water Minister Kader Asmal, describes as "fast becoming the only acid dam in the country".

Downstream of the dam, between Loskop and Marble Hall, lies some of the richest farming land in the country where landowners have used their riparian water rights to construct an amazing network of canals and mechanised systems that irrigate vast fields of wheat, maize and orange trees that supply Gauteng's industrialised areas with food.

These are some of the most efficient farms in the country, but they use so much water from the river that, says Forster, "there is literally not a cupful left" to supply settlements of rural people who were removed from the valley and shunted into the KwaNdebele and Lebowa homelands. A few kilometres away from these well-watered estates lie parched villages that have water trucked in to them every day.

The Olifants then trickles into a section of the former Lebowa home-

land, where it veers east towards the sea and picks up fresh water from a new catchment area. But these lands have been overgrazed and eroded lands (they were never supplied with proper irrigation), so that by the time it flows into the Arabi Dam, east of Lebowa, it has picked up tons of silt and soil.

From there the river flows through more degraded villages, and a couple of asbestos mines that leave their toxic fibres in its waters, until it is joined by the Steelpoort and Blyde Rivers near the Northern Transvaal Drakensberg escarpment. These rivers should refresh the Olifants with mountain water, but the Steelpoort has been heavily polluted by mines along its course and the Blyde River has been sucked dry by huge pine and bluegum forests.

Trees in these plantations can use more than 100 litres a day each and their roots reach into groundwater some 20m below the surface. So the Blyderivierspoort Dam, just under the escarpment, lies well below its proper level and its waters are laden with silt and pollution gathered upstream. The Olifants then winds across the Lowveld to Phalaborwa, where industries discharge more effluent into it.

The river's load of silt, sulphates and other pollutants have devastated aquatic life in the Kruger National Park. By the time the river crosses into Mozambique it is, according to Forster, no more than "a little trickle of effluent" (see opposite).



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ongoing mismanagement and environmental damage have ruined resources

water shortage

A river barely runs through it

(3) M&G 13-19/10/95
Mozambique's rivers all

originate elsewhere — and by the time they get to the drought-ravaged country, they are almost useless. Justin Arenstein reports

MOZAMBICAN goodwill towards South Africa is drying up — with a growing clamour that South Africa is responsible for that country's increasingly parched crops and dwindling rivers.

Not even a flying visit to Maputo late last week by South Africa's water guru, Kader Asmal, is expected to satisfy Mozambique's increasingly militant agriculturalists, who are convinced that South Africa is over-utilising a limited resource.

The growing outrage in southern Mozambique stems from the fact that Mozambique has been forced to rely on its rivers for water because of its severely under-developed water infrastructure.

None of these rivers, however, originate within the country and all are heavily utilised by neighbouring countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland before entering Mozambique. After three years without any significant rains, Mozambique's rivers are drying up.

Mozambican government authorities contend that a number of South African dams on the Injaka and Inkomati rivers in Mpumalanga and the increased agricultural use of the Olifants and Crocodile rivers have aggravated this situation to the point where many of Mozambique's once major waterways have ceased to flow.

Asmal was attempting to address this growing dissatisfaction when he flew to Maputo last week for an urgent one-day meeting with his counterparts there.

"Yes, South Africa is very aware that the Mozambicans are unhappy about the quantity of water reaching them. In fact, the Mozambicans were so unhappy that they declined to sign a proposed Memorandum of Understanding — they called it a 'feel-good document'," said Peter van Niekerk, Asmal's chief engineer for project planning and a delegation member.

"Instead, they immediately signed a draft document calling for the creation of a joint water commission between our two countries. This is much more than we had expected or hoped for and, as a result, a formal treaty between South Africa and Mozambique is scheduled to be signed in early November — after the two countries' Cabinets approve the document, of course."

Acknowledging that the proposed treaty won't bring any dramatic or other gains for either Mozambique or South Africa in the short term, Van Niekerk explained that "the present drought is so severe that we don't have the capacity to supply Mozambique with much more water than it's currently getting."

"But what we're actually doing is laying the framework for 10 to 15

years from now. This agreement will be the keystone for similar treaties throughout the sub-continent."

Although no formal complaint has yet been lodged with South African authorities, it is also hoped that Asmal's visit will quash grumblings for a World Court lawsuit against South Africa for allegedly violating international water conventions.

"We've informed the South Africans that we don't agree with unilateral decisions to build dams on international rivers such as the Sabie River," explains Mozambican National Water Board Director Luis Elias.

"We depend on the rivers that flow from neighbouring countries, but if we don't like their decisions what can we do?" asks southern Mozambique's Regional Director for Water Affairs, Issufo Cautamia. "We can't just go and knock the dams down."

Although the threatened legal action is seen as nothing more than a political lever to impress the South Africans with Mozambique's seriousness, the threat itself could seriously harm South Africa's image both within the sub-continent and in the Organisation for African Unity (OAU). South Africa has repeatedly tried to emphasise that although it is a regional superpower, it will not bully its neighbours.



PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

(123) (3)
MG 13-19/10/95
irrigation water required for one hectare of land is enough to meet the domestic needs of almost 900 people a year. Water losses associated with the supply of irrigation water are around 30 percent. A one-percent reduction to 29 percent would meet the basic water needs of nine million people.

Water restrictions imposed on urban consumers and increased tariffs on users of bulk water from government dams, mainly municipalities and large industries, are one way of ensuring that water is conserved.

But government-owned water is just a tiny proportion of the resource and the only long-term solution lies in a thorough overhaul of the country's water law to allow the state to regain control of the bulk of water resources and allocate these in a planned and equitable way.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has begun to do just that, by preparing a White Paper on water law reform. This will allow for the creation of catchment authorities that will have real powers to allocate and control water use. In this way rivers like the Olifants can be better cared for and used by a greater proportion of the population — instead of being subjected to an unregulated system that encourages the owner-takes-all principle.

But organised commercial agriculture, which feels under siege from new land restitution and redistribution laws, has already indicated it will fiercely resist any initiatives that will erode their rights to water — especially at a time when years of drought have pushed many farmers to the wall.

The owners of large agricultural estates and plantations will also be emboldened by property clauses in the interim Constitution that are interpreted by many as a protection of their land and thus riparian and private water rights.

In 1852, Chief Seattle wrote an often-quoted letter in response to US government requests for title to his peoples' land. It said: "How can you buy or sell the sky? The land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? ... The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst ... So you must give to the rivers the kindness that would give any brother."

In South Africa, the waters have been bought and sold under a system of private management that defies compassion.

"This highly distorted access to natural resources is not the fault of the 'haves'. Large-scale bulk water users such as forestry, agriculture and municipalities are merely responding to the legal circumstances concerning the control of water," says Forster.

The fault lies with the laws which govern the ownership, allocation, access to, use and management of water, and the political system which maintained such laws." The only solution, he says, is for the state to take back public ownership of the rivers and the ground-water.

The problem is that civil strife in South Africa is more likely to take place over water reform than the land that is often mistakenly described as the most heavily contested resource in this country.

Declining to comment on a possible meeting between Minister Asmal and his regional counterparts to establish non-riparian rights to water systems for all the countries within the sub-continent, South Africa's Director of Legal Services for Water Affairs, Willem Labuschagne, would only say that "non-riparian rights are on the cards. But there is no concrete framework for this yet and only long negotiating will produce such a framework."

Labuschagne also dismissed hopes for "quick fix" solutions to water shortages via exchange programmes with countries such as Zambia and Zaire which have abundant water.

"Water exchange schemes with such countries is just talk at the moment," he said.

"Water supplies to Mozambique should increase, though, when programmes such as the eradication of exotic trees along water courses in South Africa begin to have an effect. These plants can consume up to 30 percent of river-borne water."

Labuschagne also added that the entire body of South African water legislation is presently being reviewed, including farmer's riparian rights to water that flows through their property.

"This process allows for public participation and good suggestions will definitely not be ignored," he said.

Submissions can be sent to Dr Kader Asmal, Minister of Water and Forestry Affairs, Private Bag X9052, Cape Town, 8000. — African Eye News

Air power, glory ... and expense

The air force is trying to sell itself in the new South Africa. **Jan Taljaard** visited the Pretoria air show

LAST weekend *Top Gun* blustered into town on augmented turbo-fans. Tokyo Sexwale briefly ruled Gauteng from the air; the American F16 took top honours in the phallic stakes; and the British Red Arrow aerobatic team showed off skills that hinted at a military lineage of exquisitely executed yet not always sensible cavalry charges.

The Russians allegedly had to borrow tyres, but in the end conquered by executing the "cobra" — a physics-defeating manoeuvre that had a 30-ton jet fighter coiling upwards and backwards.

The flying extravaganza was the culmination of the South African Air Force's 75th birthday year.

It was a year in which the SAAF

attempted to sell an old air force to a new nation. This was a year of flying precariously as the restructured armed forces had to justify their share of the tax rand against demands for social upliftment.

To the SAAF's credit, they did not go about it by joining the gang of plumbers, restaurateurs, art-gallery owners, panel-beaters, computer vendors and other entrepreneurs in trying to portray the Reconstruction and Development Programme as their sole driving force.

A slightly more subtle approach had them adopting a birthday slogan proclaiming the SAAF to be the "Pride of the Nation" and, perhaps more imaginatively, airlifting Commander-in-Chief Nelson Mandela to a mountain top for a performance of the Air Force choir.

But, while the celebration year had its RDP moments, last week's air show had precious little to do with social upliftment.

The spectacle was, rather, a celebration of predatory power and speed,



Thrills galore: The beauty and power of airborne killing machines impressed the crowds

PHOTO: NAASHON ZALK

of sheer visceral thrills and drumming decibels. It was beautiful. One sensed that to most spectators it was incidental that the aircraft were actually designed as killing machines.

Yet the air show — displaying, for the first time, the latest new-generation jet fighters on South African soil — was a strange lesson in aesthetics. The nation which produced Wassily Kandinsky and Marc Chagall also showed what were arguably the ugliest, though perhaps most functional, aircraft.

The brutal-looking Russian Sukhoi, while bearing some resemblance to the American F15 it was designed to counter, had unsightly bulges where avionics and other tools of the trade were seemingly slapped onto the fuselage, almost as if these were an afterthought.

It was the USA, the nation

which spawned the likes of Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollock, that seemed to be building the most beautiful planes.

But perhaps more telling than flowing leading-edge extensions and smoothly rounded edges was the fact that the pristine F15 stayed on the ground for the duration of the air show, whereas the Sukhoi astounded with its performance.

And two of the better anecdotes came from within the Russian camp. One (confirmed) had Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale going up in the passenger seat of a MiG29 — and proudly proclaiming on landing that he had ruled his province from the air.

The other story could or would not be confirmed by anyone in the SAAF, but good authority has it that when the Russians arrived it was noticed that the tyres on their landing gear was in a bad state.

The SAAF donated new tyres in a flurry of goodwill. No, we will not confirm, said an SAAF spokesperson. They were our guests and we are not going to put them in a bad light.

Of course the birthday boys also had their turn, showing off the quite amazing Rooivalk attack helicopter, some old aircraft and some very old aircraft.

Ironically, almost the only black faces to be seen in a crowd of half a million belonged to American servicemen. In the end, the air show flaunted the white man's technology for the benefit of other white men.

And as planes thundered over Pretoria, burning up an estimated million rands' worth of fuel per day, it is quite possible that someone down there in adjoining Atteridgeville or Mamelodi briefly looked up while wondering how many bottles of paraffin at R2.20 a bottle could be fitted into a household budget.

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Long delays in abuse cases

MG 13-19/10/95

Rehana Rossouw

Human rights groups are furious at delays of more than two years in bringing child-abusers to justice.

A former principal of a children's home in Cape Town, Mike Viveros, has had his trial on charges of sexually abusing seven children postponed 15 times since he first appeared in court in October 1993.

Welfare workers say children are told to prepare to testify each time the case is set down, and that they are traumatised when told the matter is postponed.

They are also concerned that delays could increase the risk of the children becoming unreliable witnesses and that lax bail conditions do not protect them from being approached by the accused.

Although the Western Cape has pioneered the establishment of special sexual offences courts, the region's Attorney General, Frank Khan, said they are unable to cope with the "staggering" volume of cases to be heard.

"I have repeatedly been unsuccessful in my requests to the Department (of Justice) for the creation of additional special courts," Khan told the Parliamentary Select Committee on Justice recently.

The Wynberg sexual offences court had more than 250 cases outstanding on its special court roll, which would take about seven and a half months to dispose of.

But Enver Daniels, advisor to

Justice Minister Dullah Omar, said providing more courtrooms was not necessarily the solution. "We are facing budgetary constraints," he said, but noted that what was needed was "a coherent prosecutorial policy regarding sexual offences".

Two sentences handed down in the Wynberg regional court last week sparked an outcry. Dumisani Mgijima, 19, was sentenced to seven years in jail for raping a 15-year-old girl. On the same day, Lesley Appollis, 61, who repeatedly raped a child over a period of two years, starting when she was nine, was given a suspended sentence on condition that he underwent correctional supervision.

Daniels said the Ministry of Justice had received complaints from a number of attorneys that anyone suspected of committing a sexual offence was brought to court. "The backlog will be cleared much sooner if not just everyone is prosecuted." He said Omar would "seriously" examine means of addressing the problem.

The children's rights advocacy group Resources Aimed at Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Rapcan) said the state of the courts and procedures for children were "appalling".

"We receive regular calls from people who have gone to court with sufficient evidence, and yet these criminals continue to walk free. In many cases, evidence simply disappears or cases are dismissed,"

said Rapcan's Bernadette van Vuuren.

A year ago, Rapcan approached the Minister of Justice to protest this situation and were challenged to prove their allegations. Last week it again approached the ministry.

Last month Rapcan launched an affidavit campaign to gather cases which highlighted the problems experienced by children at court. Van Vuuren said they were "flooded" with examples sent in by individuals, non-governmental organisations and welfare bodies.

Rapcan selected nine affidavits and submitted them to the Ministries of Justice, Social Welfare and Health, the president's office and the AG's office. They include:

- A man was arrested after the death of his four-year-old son, who had been brutally assaulted. The father was released without bail and still has access to his other children.

- A two-year-old child, found bleeding internally after being sexually assaulted by her mother's boyfriend, appeared in court alone. The parents were not allowed to attend, and the mother was told the charges had been dismissed due to insufficient evidence, despite her willingness to testify.

- A man accused of sexually abusing nine children told the magistrate that he was impotent and unable to have committed the crimes. Despite the fact that there was no medical evidence to back his claim, the charges against him were dismissed.

Land claims issue to be brought up at Africanist congress in UK

PAC deputy president Motsoko Pheko will brief world Pan Africanists today on developments in South Africa.

Pheko, scheduled to deliver the keynote address at the 50th Pan African congress in Manchester, England, said he would use the platform to muster sup-

port for the PAC to realise its objectives of returning land to its "rightful owners".

These people, he said, had been reduced to "land invaders quarrelling over crumbs".

"We will also draw their attention to our dissatisfaction about bringing the cut-off date

on claims for the land to 1913 ... (when) the wars of resistance go further back than that," he said.

Pheko will join proponents of Pan Africanism from as far afield as the United States and the Caribbean at the five-day gathering.

Delegates are expected to

debate ways to democratise the Pan African movement, and of mobilising and uniting Africans against imperialist domination and economic exploitation, as well as trying to enhance the contributions to it from women, peasants, workers and the youth.



Move to soften blow for thousands of retrenched public

servants

BD

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Public Service Minister Zola Skweyiya would approach three government departments for help in softening the blow for tens of thousands of public servants facing retrenchment, his office said yesterday.

Private business would also be asked to play a part in the strategy.

Skweyiya's special adviser, Sandile Nogxina, said key departments to be approached were public works, trade and industry and reconstruction and

development. The plan to lessen the social effect of large-scale retrenchments would be based primarily on public works job creation, assistance in setting up small businesses and retraining. He stressed the plan would be devised in consultation with targeted stakeholders. Ministers Jeff Radebe, Trevor Manuel and Jay Naidoo would all be contacted by Skweyiya within two weeks.

A presidential review commission will be set up before the year end to identify public servants for retrench-

ment. Stakeholders broadly agree up to 60 000 of SA's 1,2-million public servants face retrenchment next year. The commission is expected to be headed by President Nelson Mandela, and will include Deputy Presidents Thabo Mbeki and FW de Klerk, and Skweyiya, representatives from the parliamentary public service committee, Public Service Commission, unions and directors-general.

Nogxina said public servants in the former homelands, particularly in high unemployment provinces such as the

Eastern Cape and Northern Province, would be the worst affected.

Retrenchments of migrant miners from those areas, plus the fact that a subsistence economy was no longer viable, compounded the problem. As a result, the public service in the former Transkei had become its "only economic activity". He warned of big social problems unless ways were found "to contain the fallout" from cuts.

Government departments could help make rationalisation humane by helping provide creative employment

27/10/95

for retrenched workers. In Zimbabwe the government had helped set up small businesses for redundant public servants. Public works programmes and RDP projects could also be used.

Skweyiya was talking to business about "retraining and reskilling" public servants to lessen the social effect of retrenchments. The public service ministry also envisaged a personnel bank to keep track of surplus skilled public servants in specific regions and shortages in others. Such a labour bank could be used to relocate staff.

Buthelezi calls on traditional leaders to demand communal land

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi has called on Eastern Cape traditional leaders to start a campaign to wrest control of communal land in the province from central government, possibly through legislation similar to the Ingonyama Trust Act.

Speaking in Qamata on Saturday as a guest of paramount chief KD Matanzima, Buthelezi said indigenous and customary law should be placed on the same footing as common law.

"These are the true issues of SA which have thus far not even been confronted during the process of constitution-making," Buthelezi said.

Central government's plan to amend the Act, passed before the general election, would result in it being "substantially repealed", he said. Zulus found this unacceptable, just as they found it unacceptable that Eastern Cape chiefdom land was classified as public property belonging to the state.

It was essential that central government returned land in the Eastern

Cape to traditional leaders.

"I would not know whether this could best be achieved by establishing a trust similar to the Ingonyama Trust which we have in KwaZulu-Natal, or whether land ought to be transferred to the Eastern Cape province so that it may establish legislation to recognise the institution of communal property."

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom plans to introduce legislation at the next parliamentary session to amend the Act, as it is considered an obstacle to development. The Act

places more than 90% of land in the former KwaZulu — including all state land, government property, townships and township homes — in a trust under the Zulu monarch. Financial institutions have refused to offer loans for housing development in the affected areas. The KwaZulu-Natal government intends to counter Hanekom's move by re-enacting the Act in the provincial legislature next month.

Buthelezi said traditional leaders could not accept that indigenous and customary law was subservient to na-

Communal land

Continued from Page 1

the Local Government Transition Act last week as it "substantially restricts the power of provinces to reorganise local government as it best sees fit".

He called on KwaZulu-Natal safety and security MEC Celani Mtetwa to establish a protection service to provide chiefs with "special armed and trained police officials". He said central government's move to disarm chiefs had led to their being killed.

Meanwhile, the ANC KwaZulu-Natal region yesterday called for a thor-

ough investigation into claims that senior IFP leaders, including Mtetwa and IFP Gauteng deputy chairman Themba Khoza, were paid informers.

The ANC call followed a Sunday Times report that court papers in the trial of former Vlakplaas commander Col Eugene de Kock showed that the two were paid between R1 000 and R2 000 a month each from 1990 until 1992 for being informers. They had also been identified by former Vlakplaas members as being pivotal figures in gun-running and other operations.

IFP spokesman Ed Tillett said the evidence was "untested" and it would be premature to comment as the trial was in progress.

tional and provincial legislation.

The ruling law on family rights, inheritance, property and marriages was that which prevailed during the apartheid years, ignoring the fact that many South Africans respected different laws which "are greatly diversified on a regional basis", Buthelezi said.

Speaking in northern KwaZulu-Natal yesterday, Buthelezi said he hoped that the KwaZulu-Natal government would challenge amendments made to

Continued on Page 2

Slimmer EU farm list a blow for SA

BD 17/10/95
Debra Percival

BRUSSELS — SA's envoy to the EU, Neil van Heerden, has said he is disappointed that EU ambassadors have slimmed down the list of farm products to benefit from easier access to the EU market.

He was speaking after the third round of bilateral trade talks between SA and the EU last week.

The reduction from 66% of the maximum possible to just 58% — because of opposition from Europe's main agricultural producing countries — still has to be put to EU farm ministers.

But EU director-general for development Steffen Smidt implied that SA would not lose out too much, due to a new range of general system of preference (GSP) benefits for developing countries to begin by January 1 next year.

Smidt said the World Trade Organisation's 10-year time-frame for concluding a free trade pact with a third country would be considered by the commission in its draft.

He also repeated that the commission was willing to offer SA an "asymmetrical" agreement under which the EU would open up its market at a faster rate than expected of SA.

Van Heerden welcomed Smidt's statement that any potentially negative effects of the agreement on neighbouring southern African nations would be taken into consideration when the mandate was drawn up.

Of particular note was the Southern African Customs Union with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland.

The EU is anxious to wrap up a deal in the course of next year to be put into effect from January 1 1997.

Zimbabwe, SA agree to co-operate over Limpopo

(3) ~~(Sapa)~~ Harar 18/10/95
Harare - Zimbabwe and South Africa agreed yesterday to set up a joint water commission to oversee the issues pertaining to the Limpopo River which forms the boundary between the two

countries.
"We agreed that we will establish a joint water commission which will look into the affairs pertaining to water," Zimbabwe Minister of Lands and Water

Resources Kumbirai Kangai announced at a joint news conference with his South African counterpart, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal. - Sapa-AFP.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

SA agricultural products a thorny issue at EU negotiations

Agricultural products amount to just 9 percent of South Africa's exports to the European Union. Why then are Eurocrats so intensely nervous about this sector? Foreign Editor Dale Lautenbach grappled with the question in Brussels and Rome

Put the question as bluntly as possible: if South Africa's negotiators won duty-free access to Europe's markets for our citrus products and for olive oil, would the Italian government support this aspect of the deal?

The vice-president of the Senate was expansive in his answer, offering a global view, so to speak.

He addressed the growing hegemony of the United States and Japan in world trade and said that the dangerously cosy relationship between France and Germany meant, in effect, that the latter had the striking force.

At least you knew that oranges were sensitive.

South Africa's negotiations with the European Union in search of a package that would define its long-term relationship with its biggest trading-partner bloc had barely begun but trade muscled its way on to centre stage.

And at the heart of this most difficult part of the talks, the area of most concern, certainly to the Europeans, was trade in agricultural products.

Looking at South Africa's production, and the fact that only about 10 percent of the land was suitable for crop production and that the region was plagued by water shortages, it was hard to understand what threatened Europe so.

Protectionism around agricultural products found its most acute expression in the countries of southern Europe, namely France, Italy, Spain and Greece. In a number of these countries the so-called farming lobby was a powerful voice and

not one lightly ignored by politicians with an eye on national polls.

British member of the European Parliament Richard Balfe explained that the emotionalism of the lobby was founded on the fact that here were people who remember what it was like to be hungry during World War 2. It was an unimpressive explanation to someone from the African continent.

"Farmers fear everything," said Adriano Grazioli, director general of the EU's Economic and Social Committee (Ecosoc). Heading a body that represented the voice of civil society in Europe, including trade unions, farmer unions, social councils and chambers of commerce, his advice was to get South African farmers talking to European farmers and to address some of the myths around which the fears of competition were built.

"This is a component that can't be delivered by diplomats and politicians," he said, noting too that much of South Africa's fruit production was counter-season and should not be perceived as threatening.

South African farmers have already had a taste of the power of European agricultural protectionism though. While the current negotiations on the final shape of South Africa's relations to the EU proceed (and a possible Free Trade Agreement could be part of that package) South Africa in the meantime holds Most Favoured Nation status with the EU qualifying it for the generalised system of preferences (GSP), a set of tariff reductions which are non-negotiable and awarded by the EU.

Under GSP, agricultural products were the last to qualify following numerous delays and just last week the European Council awarded GSP eligibility to just 59 percent of the range of South African farm goods.

This was 7 percent down on the list recommended by the European Commission, the Brussels bureaucrats, and far short of what South Africa hoped to achieve. It was being taken by South African negotiators as a measure of things to come.

The broader picture of why agricultural products were seen as such a threat was not built on myth alone though. The sprawling European market was a finely balanced thing and it was not so much the fact that a mountain of South African oranges could upset this apple cart but that in global terms, the deal done with South Africa was being closely watched by other international interests which also wanted favourable access to Europe's markets.

Flemming Bjørnekaer Jensen, a director in the general secretariat of the European Council, said that the dimensions of the problem were difficult to explain. He noted too the north-south split in Europe itself where northern Europeans — like himself — often found it hard to grasp the agricultural sensitivities of their southern cousins.

"To a limited extent it (the agricultural balance) is a real problem but it becomes a political problem." He told the story of Namibia, where EU money was ploughed into the ground to get a table-grape farm going. The project was successful, the fruit sweetened on the vine and Namibia put in a bid for a 1 000 ton export quota to Europe.

"It gave rise to a hard fight," said Jensen. A compromise was



AFRICAN THREAT European countries, particularly those of the south, feel threatened by the possibility of South Africa gaining duty free access to the European agricultural market, although much of South Africa's production would occur in the counter season.

and many of the countries of northern Europe will bat for it. But what South Africans had to accept was that enduring political flavour-of-the-month status aside, the deal would not be a happy handout.

It did seem sad though that the

agricultural aspect of the trade talks was absorbing so much energy and concentration. Negotiators would be talking tariffs on the perfect pear or nectarine when the wider issue in southern Africa was surely food security.

Within the enormously complex EU structure which worked, despite everything, it was hard to get a dialogue going between the narrow track of trade talks and the wider issues of co-operation and development. South Africa enjoys a 500 mil-

lion ecu development budget over four years thanks to the European parliament, but in the building just around the block in Brussels, we are going to have to fight tooth and nail over the price of peaches, wine and other sensitive commodities.

NEWS

Potential in small-scale farming, Agricultural Union is told

SA farming 'in decline'

(3) Nov 19/10/95

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER

Farming in SA is declining as a major contributor to the economy, Business SA president Dave Brink told the SA Agricultural Union yesterday.

Brink, also a chairman of Absa banking group, told white farmers that black farmers would "contribute towards a more efficient agricultural production".

The conference, ending today, was dominated by anti-Government statements from many of the

190 delegates and opposition to Brink's speech.

His remarks rank as one of the most devastating statements in recent years by a top business leader about the country's 60 000 white farmers.

They are currently at odds with the Government over land restitution claims and the proposed Land Reform Act.

Brink said agriculture at present provided only 5,1% of the GDP in volume terms as against 24% from the manufacturing sector. Its share of the

economy had been declining steadily over the past 40 years.

The farming industry now only employs just over 10% of the total labour force. "From these figures it is evident that agriculture is a declining industry," Brink said.

Brink's banking group includes Volkskas, traditionally regarded as the farmers' bank.

Farming was in the past highly regulated, creating a large-scale, exclusively white capital-intensive commercial sector.

Labour-intensive small scale subsistence farming was limited to the rural black areas.

Subsidies and protectionist measures had encouraged white farmers. Added to this had been forced removals from the land and a vicious circle of poverty in some areas.

This had resulted in the land issue becoming closely associated with the agricultural sector.

Relieving rural poverty is directly related to agricultural reform, the conference was told.

Agriculture at present did not suggest it could add to the development of SA, Brink said. He presented evidence of the potential in small-scale farming. Black farmers had by 1991 produced 2-million tons of sugar on 40 000 smallholdings.

"We have the potential to create thousands of decent livelihoods in a sector at present burdened by poverty," he said.

One delegate suggested farmers take their case to the World Court in The Hague.

AGRICULTURE

Adios, El Nino

(3)
FM 20/10/95

The economy could get a R3bn boost from farming in the 1996 agricultural marketing season — if meteorologists' predictions of good summer rainfall come true.

And the farmers need the rains after last summer's crop disaster. Because of the drought, the 4,2 Mt maize crop was almost 8 Mt below the previous season.

One reason for the good weather prognosis is that the El Nino warm water phenomenon in the eastern Pacific Ocean has virtually disappeared. At least for October-December, above-average summer rains can be expected in the main crop areas.

The predictions are also based on factors such as upper wind indices and sea surface temperatures around SA.

This is the gist of the Pretoria weather bureau's seasonal forecast, which is supported by US weather officials who study Pacific surface temperatures that affect global weather patterns.

Economists say bumper 1996 crops could benefit not only the economy but also the Exchequer and the balance of payments.

Two years ago, good summer rains boosted agriculture which in turn pushed the economy into positive growth. Now, with industry and investment thriving, farming's contribution should lift growth.

Maize farmers are used to wild swings in production, based on erratic rainfall patterns. The 1991-1992 crop of 7,8 Mt was followed by one of less than 3 Mt the next year. 9 Mt in 1993-1994, 12,1 Mt in 1994-1995 and 4,2 Mt in the past season.

The freeing of the market on May 1 allowed white maize prices to shoot up to more than R850/t last week and helped compensate for the meagre 1,9 Mt white maize crop. A good crop (white and yellow) of about 9 Mt should boost gross producer earnings by R1,5bn or more in the 1996 season. This would include more than R1bn from export earnings.

The past season's meagre wheat crop necessitated imports of about 700 000 t. With global carry-over stocks at a low 95 Mt — against 140 Mt three years ago — and world prices at a record US\$200/t level, the forex cost of imports was more than R500m, says Wheat Board GM Louis van Staden. But he adds: "Should good rains fall in the Free State in the next week, we could see a 2,35 Mt crop this year, enough to meet local demand."

Cotton farmers were hit by the previous summer drought — a crop of only 112 000 bales (of 200 kg each) will force spinners to import about 280 000 bales. And, if calculated with global prices at historical highs of US94c/lb — the average for the 1994-1995 season — the import bill will come to almost R420m.

Cotton Board GM Hennie Bruwer says that if the rains come this summer as predicted, SA could see a crop of more than 250 000 bales; cotton production could return to the historical level of 400 000 bales.

Oilseed crops such as sunflower, soya and groundnuts were also hammered by the drought. The small 450 000 t sunflower crop — 600 000 t is required to meet local market demands — made it necessary to import 120 000 t of vegetable oil at a cost of R280m, while soya oil cake and bean imports cost a further R165m. Ground nut imports of about 35 000 t added R70m to the import bill.

"Though available seed will limit the new season's crop to a potential 100 000 t, a drop in next year's maize prices could spur farmers to increase soya plantings," says Oilseeds Board GM Simon Streicher.

Jerry van Vuuren, GM of the potato and dry beans producer organisations, says despite this year's 150m bag (10 kg) potato crop being sufficient to meet local retail demand, the small dry bean crop of 49 000 t necessitated imports of 75 000 t — at a cost of R225m. "With good rains this season, we should be able to meet local demand."

Grain Sorghum Board GM Piet Skinner says good rainfall could result in treble the harvest of last season's 200 000 t. This would leave about 380 000 t for the animal feeds market, with a projected R120m boost in producer revenues.

Ah — but your land is beautiful!

(3) (#15) MG 20-26/10/95

Politicians are fighting about the property clause in the Bill of Rights — unnecessarily, argues Etienne Mureinik

LAST week the draft Bill of Rights for the final Constitution was debated in the Constitutional Assembly. As it did when the Interim Constitution was negotiated at Kempton Park, the property clause once again claimed an undue share of the limelight.

This clause which protects property rights and requires compensation on expropriation consistently gets undue attention largely because it is a focus of fear. The propertied fear that it will protect them insufficiently. The dispossessed fear that it will impede their just claims to redress of past wrongs.

Because the representatives of the dispossessed fear that it will impede equitable land restitution and reform, they project their worst nightmares onto the clause.

Many of the attacks from those representatives on the existing property clause in the interim Constitution rest on anxieties that it does not fully authorise expropriation for the purpose of land reform, or that it requires market value compensation.

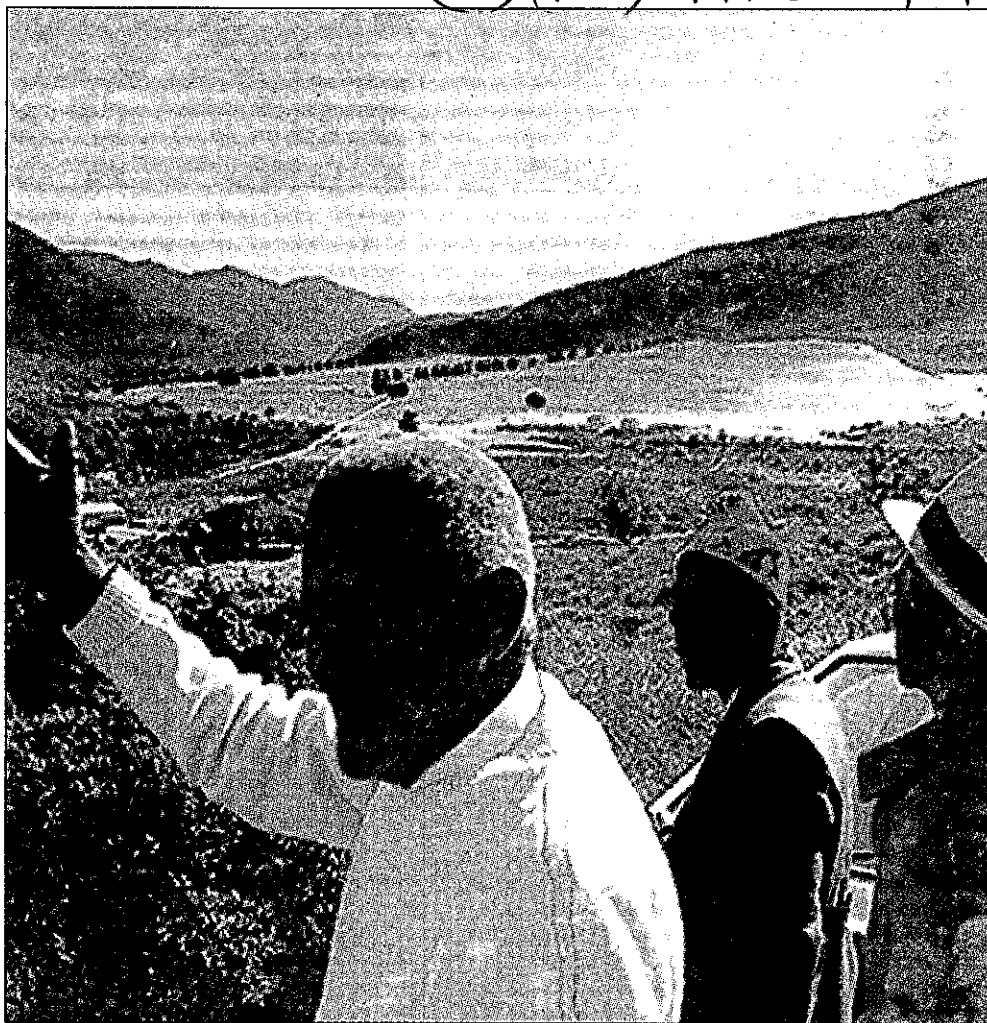
These anxieties generated a recent effort, in the Constitutional Assembly, to override the property clause altogether when the government's project is land reform. The effect might have been to eliminate the guarantee of any compensation at all when land is expropriated for restitution, or even just for redistribution.

In fact the anxieties are not well founded, and the text of the existing clause, read properly, is most probably adequate to meet them.

But that fact does not end the matter. If one side is worried about whether proposed constitutional words are clear enough to achieve a desired effect, and the other side concedes that the effect is desirable but claims that the words already have that effect, there is obviously little reason to resist including extra words to reflect the common intention. Why not make it absolutely plain that the desired effect is there?

In practice, our constitution-makers often avoid doing that. A persistent weakness of our constitutional process, since Kempton Park, has been a propensity for the parties, when they agree about the desired effect, but disagree about whether broad and general wording achieves it, to do battle about the meaning, armed with competing legal opinions.

Often the issue is referred to legal advisers to resolve by giving an assurance that the



GRAPHIC: SEAN ZINTL

wording does or does not have the desired effect. The advisers tend to give these assurances much too promiscuously. The truth is that the question is very often one which cannot be answered with confidence.

Sometimes the extra words necessary to resolve the doubt are resisted on the fatuous ground that that would "save trees". The reality, of course, is that the benefits of clarity hugely outweigh the cost of the additional paper.

And so the property clause should be changed to spell out that it does authorise expropriation for land reform, and the compensation requirement should be expanded to make entirely sure that all the considerations of equity and redress which arise during land reform are taken into account.

This is far better than creating a set of prop-

erty rights which fall away altogether the moment the government declares that it is about the business of land reform.

And in fact the property clause has been sent for reformulation along these lines. But this is the simpler part of the problem, and it is cured easily enough by careful drafting.

The harder part is to overcome the basic difference between the parties about how far property deserves constitutional protection.

To do that, propertied interests have to recognise that the right to property is profoundly different from the other rights in the Constitution. Unlike privacy or dignity or free speech, it is inherently incapable of being enjoyed equally by all to whom it is given. To make existing property rights sacrosanct would violate a foundation of all democratic constitutions, the idea of equality.

But the unpropertied also have to recognise that unless the law acknowledges, as a fundamental, that people are entitled to retain a substantial proportion of the fruits of their efforts, the prosperity and stability essential to achieve true democracy cannot be attained.

If both these things, and all their ramifications, were fully acknowledged, we might be able to converge on a common understanding of constitutional property protection.

If we accept that existing property rights are not sacrosanct, but also cannot be left entirely at the mercy of governmental whim, then perhaps what we want is no more and no less than to bring the rule of law to property.

Perhaps what we really want by way of property protection is simply the principle that government can interfere with property only to the extent that it has a good justification, articulated explicitly and reviewable in court, for doing so.

The effect of that principle would be to protect property owners from capricious expropriation. It would also bring substantial certainty and predictability to property relations. It would require as much compensation as is justified, all things considered. And it would confer benefits which all would enjoy.

Under that principle, it would be open to the government to argue, in a particular case, that a land restitution measure was so urgently required to reverse an historical injustice, and caused such little prejudice to anyone with a fair legal stake in the land, that little or no compensation should be paid. And if government is confident of that argument, it should be willing to stand or fall by it before an independent court.

There are many ways of attaining the rule of law in a property clause. You can make it say, as does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that no one should be deprived of property arbitrarily. Or that the government can interfere with property only when it acts fairly and reasonably. Or that all takings of property have to be justifiable.

The essence would be the same. A property clause like that would state a principle that few would oppose. And few would ask for more.

The final Bill of Rights is being written over the next few weeks. Legal experts Etienne Mureinik and Dennis Davis will write a series dealing with all the major issues for the *Mail & Guardian*. Mureinik is professor of law at Wits University and Davis is head of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies

Absa chief defends his statement on farmers

(3) BD23/10/95

Adrienne Giliomee

ABSA chairman David Brink, accused last week of belittling the role of the farming industry, hit back at his critics at the weekend, saying many had not bothered to read his speech.

Brink — whose comments to farmers last week was repudiated by Absa's CE Danie Cronje on Friday — said he had merely offered constructive criticism based on factual research.

He told the SA Agricultural Union in Vanderbijlpark that farming was a declining industry in terms of its GDP contribution, while smallholding farming could play an important role in the economic empowerment of blacks in the agricultural sector.

His comments prompted the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) to threaten to move its account from Absa.

Cronje's statement, released on Thursday night, distanced the bank

from Brink, claiming Brink was speaking in his capacity as president of Business SA, and not as Absa's chairman.

Cronje said Absa understood the concern of farmers following Brink's statement. Absa said on Friday that Nampo had not carried out its threat.

Brink said he was surprised at the response to his comments.

"Unfortunately it caused some significant irritation among the farming community and this was not my intention," he said.

"I wanted to make an input on how the industry could perform better in the future." Absa had always been a bank which supported the agricultural industry more than most other banks, he said, and it expected to maintain this position.

Absa spokesman Alec Hogg said although the bank did not disagree with everything Brink had said, there were aspects which were "perhaps his personal opinion".

Commission queries transfers

State land-deals probe begins

■ BY LARA SMITH

Harrismith - The Budlender Commission of Inquiry investigating alleged irregularities regarding the allocation, leasing, alienation and transfer of State land has held its first public hearing in Harrismith in the Free State.

Yesterday's hearing focused on several farms in the Harrismith area purchased by the State in 1986 for inclusion in the former QwaQwa homeland. The seven farms in question were not incorporated into QwaQwa and were offered back to the original owners at market-related prices.

According to Johannes Fourie, deputy director of the Department of Public Works in Bloemfontein, under whose

jurisdiction the land in question falls, this was done in accordance with recommendations of an earlier commission of land allocation.

The earlier commission also recommended that if the original owners did not want to buy back the land, it could be offered to the adjacent neighbours at market-related prices. If more than one person was interested, the land was to be sold to the highest bidder.

Farmer Gerrie Greyling told the commission that one of the conditions of sale of the land to the State in 1986 was that the original owners had first option to repurchase.

At present the farms are being leased to the original owners on a monthly basis.

The hearing continues.

Nov 24/10/95

3

Viljoen tells of better life in Moz

(3) CT 25/10/95

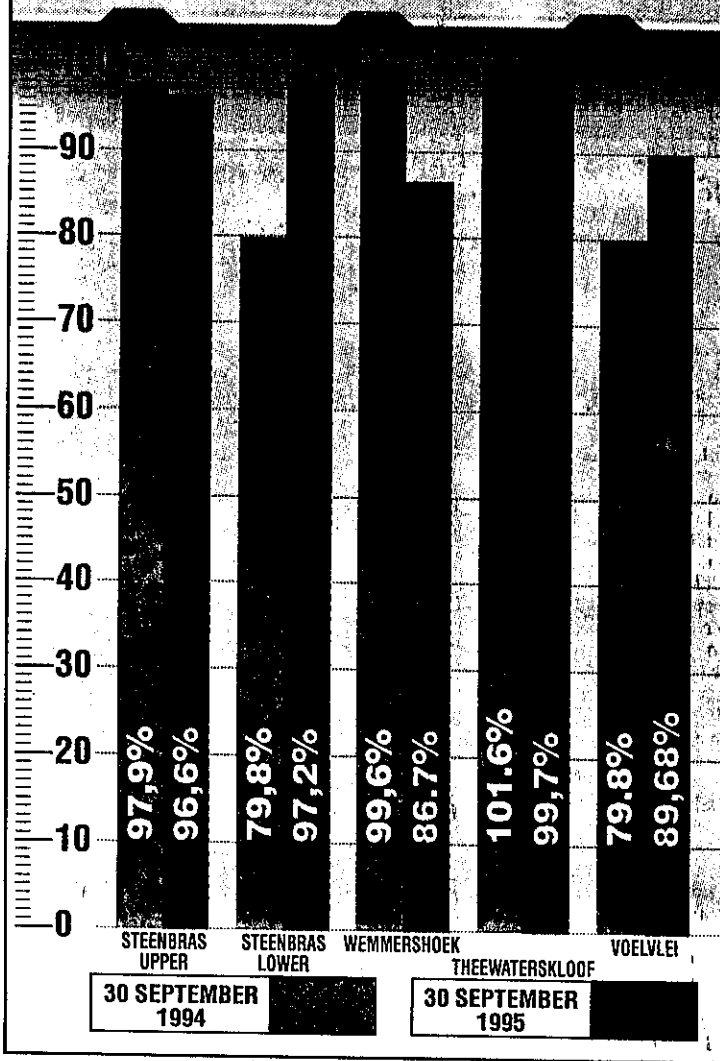
EAST LONDON: Eastern Cape farmers would face a better future under the Mozambican government than their own administration which had abandoned them, Freedom Front leader General Constand Viljoen said at an election meeting here yesterday.

Poor marketing strategies, withdrawal of subsidies and reverse racism were against the survival of white farmers, he said.

Questioned by a local farmer about the FF's proposed agricultural exchange programme with Mozambique, Gen Viljoen said farmers who relocated would not be immigrants, but would remain citizens of the FF's proposed nation state, where they would vote.

It had been proposed that farmers form two-man consortiums. One would oversee two adjacent farms, while the other relocated to Mozambique. "This way farmers won't have to let go of their land," he said. — Sapa

Peninsula dam levels



Cape Town unlikely to go thirsty — just yet

Municipal Staff

CAPE Town is unlikely to die of thirst in the foreseeable future and although no water restrictions are planned, a comprehensive study is being made of the management and usage of this scarce resource.

Prominent water experts have recently expressed concerns that dams in the Western Cape will not be able to meet the increasing demand for water in two to three years' time.

Some predicted that by 2020, the demand would have doubled and if nothing was done to improve management and storage capacity, a crisis situation would develop.

But Meyer Adendorff, Cape Town City Council's chief engineer for design and construction, said while there was growing concern about the future water supply in the region, steps were being taken to avoid a crisis.

"Recently the Faure purification plant went on line delivering about 1 100 megalitres of water a day.

"And construction on the first phase of the Palmiet scheme is in progress. This scheme will pipe water from

Gordon's Bay to the Faure plant for use in the metropolitan area."

Mr Adendorff said a Western Cape System Analysis study into the management of the existing water resources of the greater Cape Town area and the identification of possible future supply options had been completed.

"The study looked at a range of options like the building of new dams to the desalination of sea water, and better management and usage of water.

"At the moment we can cope with the demand and with the implementation of some of the schemes and proposals on the table for additional schemes, I think there will be enough water to go around.

"We are also in the process of setting up a series of workshops to get people involved in discussing the problems and giving them an opportunity to be part of the process of finding acceptable solutions."

He said the biggest challenge facing the region was the demand for water caused by the influx of people from other parts of the country.

ARG 25/10/95 (3)

Valuator explains why land prices fell

'Cut-price farms' probed

■ BY LARA SMITH

Harrismith - The sale of state-expropriated farms to the original owners at prices far lower than the compensation paid to them came under investigation at a hearing of the Budlender Commission in Harrismith yesterday.

"It is a very startling situation that people are able to buy back land that was expropriated from them seven years ago at substantially lower prices," commission chairman G M Budlender said.

The commission is investigating the transfer of state land and was hearing evidence on the second day of its inquiry into the sale of seven state-owned farms in the Harrismith district.

The farms were bought by the state in 1986 for incorporation into the former QwaQwa.

The aim of the commission is to find out whether the proper procedures were followed, and whether the prices at which the land was offered back to the original owners was appropriate.

D G Hofmeyr, who valued the

land for state acquisition in 1986 and again for the sales back to the original owners, testified that the drop in the price for the resale was due to a general decline in the value of crop land in the area. This could be attributed to the drought as well as the political uncertainty that prevailed before the election.

In addition, sections of the farms had been included in the former homeland making them smaller.

Explaining the substantial drop in the value of buildings on

the land - up to R100 000 in some cases - Hofmeyr said it was because many of the buildings had become obsolete as they now served a smaller area.

The commission also questioned why the increase in the value of grazing land was not reflected in the valuations.

Hofmeyr said that when he valued the properties they had taken comparable market prices into consideration.

The commission will submit an interim report on its findings to the president.

Star 25/10/95

(3) (3)

Farmers' blockade threat

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — As disenchant- ed farmers consider a mass blockade of Pretoria, the gov- ernment has told organised ag- riculture that proposals for the representation of rural taxpay- ers and farmers on rural local government councils are not satisfactory.

Provincial Affairs and Con- stitutional Development minis- ter Roelf Meyer conceded this at a meeting this week be- tween South African Agricul- tural Union (SAAU) and provin- cial and national government officials at the insistence of President Nelson Mandela.

The meeting was called as farmers consider mounting a

Anger at rural councils deal

blockade of Pretoria for the second time in five years to show the government that they are a force to be reckoned with in the political arena.

The proposed mass action is in protest against amendments to the Local Government Tran- sition Act, which would give farmers 10 percent of seats on rural councils to be established in terms of the new legislation. They want 40 percent of the seats.

It will also demonstrate farmers' anger over land re- form proposals, labour legisla- tion as it affects their workers, the breakdown of law and or-

der, cheap food imports, and the imposition of high tariffs on other imported foodstuffs and goods.

At the meeting attended by the premiers of Mpumalanga, Northern Province and North- ern Cape, and Deputy Provin- cial Affairs Minister Vali Moosa said he would instruct officials of his department to immediately establish a negoti- ating forum to address local government issues, including representation.

SAAU executive director Jack Raath said after the talks that "a reasonable approach and process to solving the

problem, albeit not in time for the November 1 elections, had at last been established".

Meanwhile, farmers say they will take a decision on mass action after local government elections next week.

In a bid to stave off mass ac- tion, Free State Premier Pat- rick Lekota has already pro- posed a compromise that the 40 percent representation on rural councils should be made up of farmers, small business- men, land owners and tradi- tional leaders while farm workers, women voters and other groups would also have 40 percent.

The remainder would be al- located on the basis of propor- tional representation.

(3) (SAAU)
ARG 26/10/95

'Rural council representation not satisfactory'

Farmers threaten Pretoria blockade

(3) Nov 26/10/95

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

As disenchanted farmers consider a mass blockade of Pretoria, the Government has told organised agriculture that proposals for the representation of rural taxpayers and farmers on rural local government councils are not satisfactory.

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10% of seats on rural councils to be established in terms of the new legislation. They want 40% of the seats.

It will also demonstrate farmers' anger over land reform proposals, labour legislation as it affects their workers, the breakdown of law and order, cheap food imports, and the imposition of high tariffs on other imported foodstuffs and goods.

At the meeting - attended by the premiers of Mpumalanga, Northern and Northern Cape provinces, and deputy Provincial Affairs Minister Valli Moosa - Meyer said he would instruct officials of his department to immediately establish a negotiating forum to address local government issues, including representation. Details of the forum are to be released later this week.

SAAU executive director Jack Raath, who had earlier said the portfolio committee's recommendation that farmers should only have 10% of seats on rural coun-

cils was "totally unacceptable", said after the talks that "a reasonable approach and process to solving the problem, albeit not in time for the November 1 elections, had at last been established".

Meanwhile, farmers say they will take a decision on mass action - a move known to have the support of KwaZulu Natal, Gauteng and some Free State farmers - after the local government elections next week.

In a bid to stave off mass action, Free State Premier Patrick Lekota has already proposed a compromise - that the 40% representation on rural councils should be made up of farmers, small businessmen, land owners and traditional leaders while farm workers, women voters and other groups would also have a 40% representation.

The remaining 20%, says Lekota, would be allocated on the basis of proportional representation.

Finding an answer to the riddle of tariffs

(3) ~~(1)~~

PM 26/10/95

Michael Schur

WATER Affairs and Forestry Minister Prof Kadar Asmal spoke recently (Business Day, October 3) of the need for a comprehensive plan to improve dramatically "the care we take to manage our sources of water; the efficiency with which we use water, and the equity with which we allocate water". Underlying much of what he was saying was that tariffs should be structured so that users paid the "right" or "economic" price for water.

This theme was explored in more detail in a paper by John Roome of the World Bank and in a water affairs document, *Bulk Water Tariffs in SA: A Possible New Approach*. In both cases it was suggested that the department move towards marginal cost pricing in the determination of water tariffs.

Marginal cost pricing is simply the setting of the price of an item equal to the cost of producing one extra unit of the item. In economic theory, marginal cost represents the opportunity cost (or total sacrifice) to society of producing an item. Price, on the other hand, is a measure of a commodity's marginal value to society. If price is set equal to marginal cost, then the commodity's marginal value to society is equivalent to its marginal social cost, so marginal cost pricing is assumed to be essential for efficient allocation of resources.

There are numerous ways in which the water sector can benefit from

adopting marginal cost pricing. Appropriate pricing mechanisms will ensure that our scarce water resources are managed in a sustainable way. Pricing reform would not only raise sufficient revenues to meet the financial requirements of infrastructure development, but could earn a surplus which could be used to subsidise communities that could not afford the marginal cost for their water consumption.

While the sentiments underlying the national water conservation conference are to be applauded, there are considerable problems — theoretical and practical — in applying marginal cost pricing principles.

Theoretically, ideal pricing rules are frequently far removed from the methods used in practice. Divergence from marginal cost pricing principles occurs for a number of reasons. First, the indivisibility (lumpiness) of capital implies ambiguity in the definition of marginal cost.

For example, the short run marginal costs of a large-scale water scheme at less than full capacity will entail only operational and maintenance costs, since these are the only costs attributable to additional consumption. Long-run marginal costs include the sum of short-run marginal costs and marginal capacity costs — the cost of extending capacity.

Strict marginal cost pricing would imply that price should equal short-run marginal cost when capacity is un-

der-utilised, but should be raised to ration existing capacity if increases in demand result in full capacity. The implications for the water sector — which frequently entails construction to meet demand for a number of years ahead — are wide fluctuations in price and consequent difficulties in long-term investment planning.

An additional problem involves the potential for disparity between economic efficiency and financial viability. If, for example, average water supply costs are falling (the marginal cost is below average cost) as a consequence of economies of scale, then the application of marginal cost pricing would result in financial losses for the water authorities. Third, there is also the possibility that the concern of macro-economic policy to combat inflation (and hence to limit price increases of nationalised industries) is incompatible with allocation policy and a "first best" pricing rule.

In *Charging User Fees for Social Services: The Case of Education in Malawi*, Thobani (1983) has argued that perhaps the most important inadequacy of marginal cost pricing is that it reflects society's valuation of the service, which can diverge from individual willingness to pay.

For example, an individual's perception of the potential benefits of a service may well be below that of society, and hence renders him or her unwilling to pay the full marginal cost.

Thobani suggests an alternative to marginal cost pricing is to reduce the price (and hence subsidise the service) to a level that induces the individual to utilise the service. In an imperfect world, where the "optimal" price to charge is unknown, the rule of thumb for a given subsidy would be to raise the price whenever there is excess demand and to use surplus revenues to expand the service.

In this respect, surpluses generated in urban water schemes could provide subsidies to the rural areas. Cross-subsidisation is desirable if the amounts to be transferred do not cause major distortions in supply or demand.

These arguments suggest that capital indivisibility, gaps between economic efficiency and financial viability, as well as conflicts between macro-policy and sector requirements, may help to explain why theoretically optimal pricing principles are often far removed from prices determined in the real world. Equity considerations may be compromised in the striving for efficiency gains via appropriate pricing.

While the Minister made it clear that equity and efficiency are equally important, it will be necessary to develop policy that finds the correct balance between the two — meeting the basic needs of all South Africans, and preserving a scarce economic resource.

□ Schur is an economist at Palmer Development Group.

4

As the search for water widens, the schemes become more expensive

Michael Moon

WHILE much of the country gasps with thirst and billions of rands are spent to bring water to the Highveld from Lesotho, some farmers can afford to irrigate mielie fields liberally, and in townships, rivers of water run from poorly maintained supply systems.

The current drought has focused attention on one of the country's more complex strategic planning issues — water tariffs.

The public is constantly being told of the need to conserve water. But because urban South Africans are accustomed to paying relatively little for water, and see profligate use around them, they have little incentive to save.

When something is cheap and easily available, the perception grows that it is plentiful and therefore not worth looking after.

Plans proceed to meet growing demand for water in industrial and urban complexes; and as the search widens to remote places of water abundance, the transfer schemes grow more elaborate and expensive.

Inevitably, the question has been asked: is such a demand-driven policy sustainable? Should we not be looking at new ways of "managing" the demand for water?

The water affairs and forestry department has been exploring an economic approach to tariff setting which would have the effect of reorganising the way water is allocated.

The theory goes that such a restructuring could ensure more efficient usage of existing resources and curtail the need for costly dam and water transfer schemes.

An official proposal for economic, or "true" or "right", pricing of water was recently aired in a department discussion document tabled at a water conservation conference (Business Day, October 3).

Simply put, the idea is that, in addition to the charge for water delivery, water itself is priced. It is proposed that marginal costs be used to determine the prices.

At present, water has no real monetary value in SA, where it has always been regarded as a free or public good, belonging to no-one in particular. Should it continue to be so?

"Economic theory suggests that, in the absence of abundance, water as a product should not be free, but should be priced according to its value as a commodity," said the discussion document.

This implies taking an entirely new approach to water. The compilers of the document acknowledge their proposal is "radically different" to anything followed in SA thus far. Similar projects have been only tentatively ventured in a handful of other water-scarce countries.

The proposal looks beyond simple cost-recovery for the impounding and conveying of water — a common practice worldwide but one possibly better suited to countries where water and capital are relatively abundant.

The World Bank has shown an interest in the latest thinking because it is at the cutting edge of international strategic planning and could provide a blueprint for other water-scarce regions.

In his address at the opening of the conservation conference, Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal

warned that full economic pricing would result in "massive" tariff increases, but said all consumers were being effectively subsidised, with big consumers subsidised to a greater degree.

This inequity would have to be remedied. "Bold, but considered, change" was needed in water policy, said Asmal.

His researchers suggest that pricing arrangements may strongly influence the way water is employed, and a "suitable price signal" could be part of sustainable resource management.

The document emphasises the need to be sure that the costs of new water transfer schemes, such as any planned future extensions to the Lesotho Highlands project, are not higher than the costs involved in changing utilisation of current capacity to achieve most efficient use.

The bottom line is that demand at current levels in SA will outstrip natural supplies within three decades, a trend exacerbated by accelerated economic growth.

Even if such growth did produce the capital needed to finance high-tech water supply schemes, the scope for such undertakings is not infinite. There are few remaining opportunities for domestic transfers, and plans such as that to divert Zambezi water to Gauteng are riddled with complications such as costs, political risk and environmental concerns. The only other option — desalination — is presently prohibitively expensive.

Economic pricing of water would raise costs for all consumers although, since bulk charges are only a small proportion of total costs, domestic consumers would come off best. It is the agricultural industry which would be hardest hit.

Existing irrigation tariffs rarely recover capital costs of schemes and often do not even meet operating and maintenance costs.

Trading rights

Economic tariffs would mean that these implicit subsidies would have to go.

But the effects on farmers would clearly have to be addressed. The document raises the possibility of switching to more water-efficient irrigation methods or opting for less water-intensive crops.

Most radical, if water rights could be traded on an open market, farmers would be provided with another area to make adjustments. Such water markets are developing successfully in the US and elsewhere and have been effective in reallocating water to most efficient uses.

The suggestion that marginal costs provide the benchmark for economic pricing as they take into account future costs of new projects and, being forward looking, are an estimate of an upper price level. They take into account opportunity costs, as well as the extent to which valuable resources such as labour, land, capital and water are being utilised and can therefore encourage efficient allocations.

Underpinning all theories is an understanding that water will become much more expensive. Is this feasible in SA, where demand is for better and more plentiful water in underdeveloped areas populated by people in dire financial straits? Is a market-based approach not inappropriate in the context of reconstruction and development?

Water Affairs deputy director general Mike Muller says that, on the contrary, the proposal is very supportive of the RDP.

It has the potential for "combining the optimal use of investment with delivery of services", he says. Firstly, it would reduce the investment needs of the sector, releasing resources for other purposes.

Secondly, it would generate a surplus that could be used to fund services in "donor catchments" and achieve greater "interbasin" water equity.

Muller's view is supported by World Bank economist John Roome, who believes surpluses generated by a new tariff system should be used to fund subsidies for those unable to afford full tariffs — although a sector like agriculture would have first call on funds to help introduce conservation measures and adjust to the new system.

There are clearly many questions to be answered before government can introduce such fundamental changes, and the discussion document is at pains to point out that this is merely the beginning of a debate on the issue. But it is an issue which will not go away. The harsh realities that govern our water resources will force it onto the agenda.



Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal says bold change is needed in water policy.

Picture: TERRA

New black farmer fulfils childhood dream

(3) ET 27/10/95

BLOEMFONTEIN: The first black farmer to be assisted by the Directorate of Financial Aid took possession of the 353ha farm Stillewoning in the Brandfort area yesterday.

Mr Jacob Banyane, 49, has dreamt of becoming a farmer since his childhood on a farm in the Verkeerdevlei district. For many years he worked as a tractor driver until he had saved enough to hire grazing for his cattle.

He owns a shop in Tsepong (Verkeerdevlei), leases 100ha from the Verkeerdevlei municipality for

his cattle and has enough implements to operate a farm.

In April last year he asked the Department of Agricultural Development at Brandfort for advice on buying a farm. He had hoped to buy the farm on which he grew up, but it was too expensive.

After visiting many farms with extension officer Mr Serf van Schalkwyk, Mr Banyane applied to the directorate for assistance to buy Stillewoning, which had reverted to the Land Bank through circumstances beyond the previ-

ous owner's control.

Mr Van Schalkwyk said buying the farm had been a long and difficult process as no procedures existed to help new black farmers.

Loan

Eventually the directorate had approved the loan on condition the shop in Tsepong was sold to provide operating capital. This was not possible as there were no buyers for houses in rural areas.

After further negotiations a

bank loan of R30 000 for operating capital was approved and accepted by the directorate, which then approved a loan of R160 000 to enable Mr Banyane to negotiate with the Land Bank.

Local farmers' union chairman Mr Japie Marx said some farmers had expressed fears. He was encouraged by Mr Banyane's assurance that no squatting would be permitted on the farm.

Mr Banyane and his wife Anna, a teacher, will grow food crops and farm with cattle. — Sapa

Childhood dream comes true as black farmer buys farm

Star 27/10/95

(3)

Bloemfontein - The first black farmer to obtain assistance from the Directorate of Financial Aid took possession of the 353ha farm Stillewoning in the Brandfort district yesterday.

Jacob Banyane (49) dreamt of becoming a farmer in his childhood on a farm in the Verkeerdevlei district.

For many years he worked as a tractor driver until he had saved enough money to hire grazing for his cattle.

Banyane owns a shop in Tsepong, Verkeerdevlei, he leases 100ha from the Verkeerdevlei municipality for his cattle, and

has sufficient implements to run a farm.

In April last year he approached the Department of Agricultural Development in Brandfort for advice on the purchase of a farm.

He had hoped to buy the farm which he grew up on, but it proved too expensive.

After visiting many farms with extension officer Serf van Schalkwyk, Banyane applied to the directorate for assistance to buy Stillewoning, which had reverted to the Land Bank.

Van Schalkwyk said that this had been a long and difficult process, as

no procedures existed to assist new black farmers. New channels had to be opened.

Eventually the directorate approved the loan on condition that Banyane's house in Tsepong was sold to provide operating capital. This was not viable as there was no buyer market for houses in rural areas.

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White farmers plan 'drastic action' to solve grievances

JOHANNESBURG. — Conservative white South African farmers warned the government they were planning drastic action over grievances ranging from land claims to escalating crime.

Dries Bruwer, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU), said the government was not consulting farmers on vital issues like representation on local councils and land redistribution.

There are only 40 000 white farmers in South Africa, but even in the new democracy they represent a powerful interest group because they produce the bulk of the country's food.

Mr Bruwer, who represents 10 000 white farmers in four of South Africa's nine provinces, said farmers were angrier now than they had been in 1990 when hundreds of them drove tractors into Pretoria and brought the capital to a standstill for a day.

"We will come with something more drastic this time," Mr Bruwer said. "There's quite a lot of things we can do. I make a plea to the president, talk to the farmers, listen to them."

White farmers in the TAU and in the

(3) ARG 28/10/95
Free State are boycotting local elections next week on the grounds that their voice will be swamped in the planned system of rural councils.

Critics of the system point to the example of the Trichardtsdal area, where 181 white farmers fall in the same voting area as 25 000 blacks. They say the farmers will end up paying the bulk of taxes without having an effective say in how the money is spent.

"They are forcing a system on us that we don't want," Mr Bruwer said. "We are not going to pay levies and taxes because we are being stripped of powers over our own farms."

"What annoys farmers most is that there's no law and order anymore," Mr Bruwer said. "You can't farm near a squatter camp because the squatters steal everything they can move. They steal zinc sheets from roofs while the farmers are sleeping below."

Mr Bruwer said white farmers were evicting black workers because of legislation that would give the workers' ownership of farm land if they had lived on it for a certain period. — Reuter.

White farmers warn of tough action over their grievances

Conservative white farmers warned the Government yesterday they were planning drastic action over grievances ranging from land claims to escalating crime. Dries Bruwer, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU), said in an interview the Government was not consulting farmers on vital issues such as representation on local councils and land redistribution.

The 40 000 white farmers in South Africa represent a powerful interest group because they produce the bulk of the country's food. Bruwer, who represents 10 000 white farmers in four of South Africa's nine provinces, said farmers were angrier now than they had been in 1990, when hundreds of them drove tractors into Pretoria and brought the capital to a standstill for a day.

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(3) Mar 28/10/95
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"They are forcing a system on us that we don't want," Bruwer said. "We are not going to pay levies and taxes because we are being stripped of powers over our own farms." - Reuter

Trekkers can't
escape

escape fractious past

(3) ~~228~~ ST 29/10/95

By IVOR POWELL

THE 20th century Great Trek of the Afrikaners seems to be going the same way as the first trek — *broedertwis* all the way.

Like the followers of Louis Trichardt and Piet Retief before them, white farmers renouncing the new South Africa for new African climes broke into separate columns before their wagons were even packed.

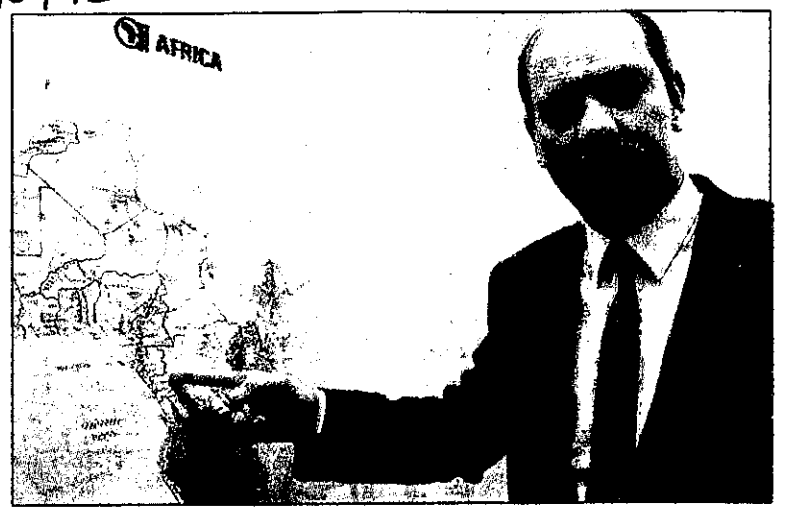
On one side of the latest rent in the volk stands the South African Chamber for the Development of Agriculture in Africa, associated with General Constand Viljoen's Freedom Front and emanating from the Transvaal and Free State agricultural unions. The chamber is planning the resettlement of about 2 000 farmers who are dissatisfied with life in the new South Africa. Fourteen African countries have been identified for the move.

On the other side stands the South African Development Corporation which is registered as a private company and is operated by Johan van der Westhuizen, a former stocks and insurance broker.

Although the corporation represents only between 100 and 150 farming families, it has the jump on the chamber's project. Some 25 families have already been settled in the Congo. According to Mr van der Westhuizen, the farmers settled in the lush and fertile Point Noir district have established a bakery, a limestone quarry and other business ventures aimed at self-sufficiency.

By contrast, the chamber's initiative, though supported by both the United Nations and the European Union, remains in the planning stages. According to Dries Bruwer, the Transvaal Agricultural Union president and a Freedom Front senator, the first concrete moves will be undertaken within six weeks, with the settling of 20 families in the north of Mozambique. The project is funded and underwritten by the European Union and guaranteed by the World Bank.

The corporation and the chamber schemes were not always separate initiatives. When the corporation



JOHAN van der Westhuizen

Picture: RUSSELL ROBERTS

was founded last year, Mr Bruwer and his counterpart in the Orange Free State Agricultural Union, Dr Piet Gouws, were members of its board of directors. Largely brokered by General Viljoen, it represented a piece of social engineering, supported not only by the UN but also by President Nelson Mandela. White farmers, marginalised by the changes in South Africa would be given unworked land in African countries — potentially averting conflict between the right wing and the government. At the same time skilled farmers in underdeveloped African countries could alleviate a continental food-production crisis.

However, according to Mr Bruwer, it was not long before the operation began to take a different direction. Mr van der Westhuizen turned the corporation into a money spinner, he said.

"Only rich farmers were welcome and they had to pay their own way — and pay the corporation."

After 99-year leases had been arranged for the emigrant farmers, the agricultural unions and the corporation went their separate ways. The Bruwer-Gouws faction set up the chamber earlier this year.

Mr van der Westhuizen has a different interpretation. "We split when they tried to bring politics into it. We

have no difference in belief. It's just we didn't want to export South African politics into Africa. I wanted to take only winners into Africa."

He said farmers were paying for themselves, and paying an administrative fee.

For Mr van der Westhuizen, the trek is essentially a business venture — although some equipment has been supplied by way of subsidy to the farmers. Already, he says, there are spin-offs in the bakery, the quarry and in facilities like storage warehouses, which are being run by the company — and the operation is to expand in forthcoming months as South African business interests become involved.

Mr Bruwer insists there is no political agenda behind the chamber initiative, merely a cold assessment of the prospects for agriculture in the new South Africa. "South Africa is becoming overpopulated with illegals, especially from Mozambique, with an estimated 300 000 crossing the border every month. Now put this with the fact that only four percent of South Africa can be classified as high-yield agricultural land and you can see the problem. Food production for Africa is our priority."

Mr Bruwer says he also has a responsibility to farmers who cannot pay their own way.

Labourer to owner

By BENISON MAKELE

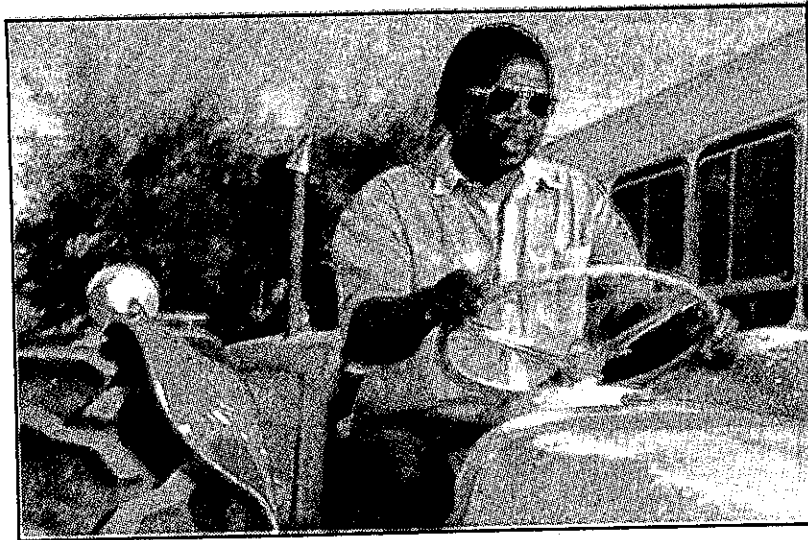
JUST LIKE NGOTHO, the protagonist in Chinua Achebe's novel, *Weep Not Child*, who carefully nourished the plants in his care while hoping that Howlands the colonialist would one day leave Kenya for his birthplace (England), Jacob Banyane (49), secretly wished to own the farm on which he drove the old Massey Ferguson tractor at the age of 10.

As fate would have it, he is now the owner of a 353 hectare cattle farm, and leases a 100 hectare farm for his livestock in the depths of the little Free State "dorpie" of Brandfort.

His rags-to-riches story sounds incredible to many of his township friends, who laughed at his "over-zealousness" as he drove his bicycle from Bloemfontein to Verkeerdevlei.

He attended school until he achieved a Junior Certificate, and did his matric by correspondence.

A stint as a factory labourer and, finally, as a miner at the Harmony gold mine, convinced him it was no use working for another man.



RAGS-TO-RICHES . . . Former farm labourer Jacob Banyane experiences the joy of driving his own tractor on his own farm in the traditionally "right" Verkeerdevlei.

■ Pic: THULANI SITHOLE

He secretly wished to have a transportation service ferrying people from his hometown to Bloemfontein – a dream he later realised as the first bus owner in his Verkeerdevlei community.

Verkeerdevlei means "wrong valley" but for Banyane it proved to be the right valley – the one in which to realise his dreams.

A married father of six children, Banyane moved from owning a bi-

Verkeerdevlei turned out to be the right valley for this farmer CP 29/10/95

cycle to owning a bus company in an extraordinary traversing of the social mobility structure.

Two of his children are attending the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA) and the University of the North satellite campus in Qwa-Qwa.

Contrary to popular belief about the prevalence of right-wing support in the Free State province, Banyane believes that there are good Afrikaners, testimony of which was manifested in the kind advice he got from Afrikaners resident in the province.

After saving, he managed to secure R160 000 in order to buy the farm on which his family were previously feudal tenants. But he was short of R20 000 which he managed to get, after much persuasion, from

the Agricultural Development Bank in the province.

Banyane believes that aspirant black farmers have a steep and frustrating road to climb, as Africans were previously considered "undesirables" by bank owners – especially when they spoke of owning farms they had previously squatted on.

At his farm, "Stillewoning", the cattle and Merino rams rushed in welcome as they saw us in the company of the man they have come to realise is their benefactor.

Like the name of the farm implies, Banyane, who also owns the only shop in Tshepong – a little township in the outskirts of Verkeerdevlei – deserves some well-deserved silence and rest far from the madding crowd as he plots his next move up the farming ladder.

Land claims hinder farm loans — union

Louise Cook

BD 30/10/95 (3)

FARMERS may have lost out on vital financing worth at least R600m because of the spate of land claims being pinned onto their properties, the industry said at the weekend.

The Transvaal Agriculture Union (TAU), one of SA's largest farming unions, said co-operatives and banks were reducing the credit needed to fund crop production because land claims had made farms a higher-risk investment. TAU (Northwest region) president Paul van der Walt said that without the credit, farmers had been forced to scrap plans to plant cash crops such as sunflowers and nuts.

This left them dependent on maize, Van der Walt said.

He said that in the Northwest region alone, farmers had lost out on financing worth R6m.

He estimated that the loss across the country could be magnified a hundredfold.

The funding co-operative for the Northwest region confirmed at the weekend that it had put the squeeze on finance. It said it could not offer credit when there was no certainty that the farmer would be able to harvest the crop and repay the loan.

TAU vice-president Willie Lewies warned that many farmers would be going out of business because it could take up to 10 years to finalise claims.

"Banks and co-operatives are wary of giving credit and, as a result, farmers sit without operating capital. They cannot plant," he said. "Another problem is the fact that, when a claim is lodged, the value of the property immediately drops because the state deducts all subsidies that have been paid over the years."

Lewies said that the market value of the farm greatly determined how much banks were prepared to lend.

"Land claims cause property owners untold problems," he said.

Water will be obtained at great cost — survey

(123) (3) BD 31/10/95

Michael Moon

COMMERCE and industry would probably have to "pay dearly" for water in the future because of the twin legacies of drought and government's commitment to supplying water to everyone, an international survey of water costs has shown.

The National Utility Services, which provides water, energy and fuel cost analyses to 750 000

business clients worldwide, undertook the 15-nation survey.

The company found that water costs in SA rose 7,45% in the 12 months to July this year, against an inflation rate of about 10%.

SA moved up one place to twelfth on the 15-nation "league table" of water prices.

It replaced the US, which moved down a position.

SA charged 192,80c a

cubic metre and the US 189,67c/m³.

Below them were Norway (152,68c) and Canada (131,31c).

The most expensive water was in Germany, which charged users an average of 743,3c/m³. Belgians now pay 576,79c and the French 535,22c.

SA recorded the fourth highest annual increase of the nations studied.

The biggest rise, of 20,84%, was in Belgium and was the result of investments required to meet European standards on water supply.

The second largest increase was in the Netherlands (16,45%), followed by Italy (8,04%).

Water prices in Australia decreased 18,04% on average over the year as a result of the removal of cross-subsidies between the business and domestic sectors. The price in Australia is now 345,43c.

Indications of future price increases in SA included: a rapid rise in demand from rural villages; increases in levies for the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme and the possible replacement of lead piping to conform to water quality standards laid down by the World Health Organisation, the National Utility Services said.

Small-scale agriculture needs to be developed

(3) 80/11/95

I-CHENG LOH

HOW is SA going to win the development race, in which every country in the world tries to move ahead of the others? Not by fattening a handful of its people. There is already no lack of that in SA.

My conviction is that the only way forward is by making all South Africans — at least the majority of them — free of the vicious cycle of ignorance, disease and poverty.

In industry and commerce, the road forward is to encourage small, medium and micro businesses to make a small capitalist out of everybody. And in agriculture, the only way to do that is through creating small farmers.

The task is how to turn most black farmers, who today are mere farm hands whose livelihood depends on their employers, into self-supporting small farmers and, eventually, into small agri-businessmen.

They must be taught everything about running a small family farm: how to plant, how to weed, how to

apply fertilisers, how to harvest and how to sell their produce. These are the first steps.

After they have saved up some capital, they must then learn how to borrow money, how to plan for expansion, how to organise themselves into co-operatives, how to get better seeds for bigger yields. And finally, they must learn about multicropping and crop rotation, how to specialise, and how to link co-operatives into marketing groups.

This is where Boskop Training Group and other similar non-governmental organisations come in. Two years ago, the embassy of the Republic of China entered into an agreement with the SA department of agriculture to share equally the R10m cost of a training project aimed at teaching marginalised South Africans, especially black women, the basic skills of vegetable farming. This project has now grown into the centrepiece of the agriculture department's RDP programme.

The aim was kept purposely simple: to give their families a more balanced diet, and to give them better cash flow through the sale of what they could not consume themselves.

Another part of the programme is to train farm advisers, or extension workers nominated by and selected from local communities, to enable them to provide advice and assistance to farmers after the basic training. This component of the project is handled by the Lowveld Agricultural College of Nelspruit.

Over the past two years, 16 community-based agricultural projects have been implemented nationwide under this training programme.

They are located in Gauteng, Northern Province, Northwest, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape.

With the exception of the North-

ern Cape, which concentrates on cotton, the remaining 14 projects have all led to the establishment of vegetable farming operations.

All in all, 1 800 small-scale vegetable farmers were taught the basic skills in 300 courses. Training included basic management principles, productivity development, vegetable cultivation skills, erection of fences, and also building skills.

Most of the "graduated" trainees are now practising what they have learned in a sustainable manner. They have taken the first step towards becoming small farmers in the Chinese sense of the word.

The most important aspect of the project is that these were community-driven projects, based on community initiatives. It is the community itself that obtained the land, selected trainees, involved supporting structures and decided on the content of the training programmes.

Most of the areas utilised for these projects were previously inef-

fective as far as agriculture was concerned. They have now been developed as additional agricultural resources for SA. The traditional chiefs, who have control of the use of the land, are also pleased to see that these hitherto wasted lands have become productive.

The project has created much-needed job opportunities for a large group of marginalised people.

The significance of this project is that it proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that there are hundreds of thousands, even millions, of potential small-scale farmers in SA who could become the backbone of the national economy. All it needs is for us to find them and teach them the skills to fulfil that role.

□ I-cheng Loh is the Republic of China's ambassador to SA. This article is an edited extract of a recent address to the annual awards function of the Boskop Training Centre in Potchefstroom.

LETTERS

Farming policy leaves silos of debt

By BRIAN POTTINGER

BY any reckoning it was a scam of daring proportions. Billions of rands were lifted from the pockets of successful people and given to profligates in the name of "keeping the farmer on the land".

This policy of forcing cheap credit down the throats of unsuccessful farmers began 90 years ago as a "temporary expedient".

Its legacy lives on: farming debts of R20-billion, tens of thousands of white commercial farmers hovering on the brink of bankruptcy, and silos full of bitterness.

Now a new book by Symon Fiske, a distinguished agricultural journalist, is set to reopen the fierce debate about how to keep farming alive without creating a subsidy-addicted class of farmers living from one cash fix to the next.

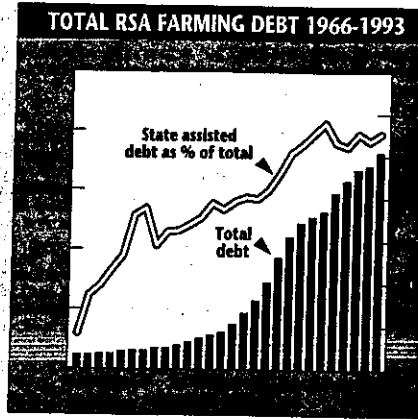
Fiske explains the problem crisply in his *Damage by Debt: South African agriculture cannot pay re-*

alistic rates of interest on the capital it uses privately because it is supersaturated with other people's capital channelled to it by government too cheaply.

The crisis has its origins in the years following the second South African War. Cheap loans were given to farmers, ostensibly to help them get back on their feet, buy new land and start feeding the country again. This cheap money caused land prices to shoot up, produce prices to become depressed and farm costs to rise. Worse, other productive sectors of the economy had to pay the taxes to cover the loans.

The private banks, confident the government would always bail out failing farmers through debt "consolidation", also pumped in unreasonable levels of credit. As Fiske observes, it was only a mug who would not mortgage his farm to the hilt and buy other things — beach houses, big cars or holidays.

Awash with all this money, the farming community did not see the warning signs — not in the 30s and



not in the 80s. They should not have put more capital into farming, should not have bid up land prices, should have left farming if need be and gone into other sectors like mining and industry.

Parallel to the development of this huge debt burden came another tragedy. The earlier, noble idea of

co-operative ventures to allow farmers to buy input commodities cheaply and sell produce as profitably as possible was corrupted by a "second generation" co-operative movement which became dominated by bureaucrats and political power games. This movement was also supported by a flood of cheap

Land Bank money.

The final blow was the growth of the single-channel marketing systems which compelled farmers to sell through one organisation at a fixed price. Competitiveness was wiped out by a stroke of the pen that signed the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1937 and, by the 70s, four out of every five farmers were forced to sell through the system.

The control boards set up to administer the system began to levy their own taxes on the farmers and to build vast empires.

Fiske describes it thus: "Massive malinvestment has occurred: for instance huge grain silos, maize and wheat mills, cotton gins and costly abattoirs have been built in the wrong places, while uneconomic egg processing factories and butter and dried milk factories were operated at huge losses for years."

Yet this "travesty" of an agricultural policy continued for years. The free-spending agricultural industry, particularly the maize lobby, had sailed

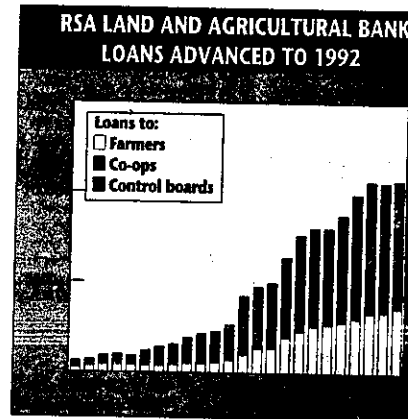
through drought, massive oversupply of produce, and disaster on this cushion of government largesse.

Even in good times they did little to reduce their debt load — in the year of the best crops debt soared. It could not continue.

In the early 80s the government instituted tough monetary measures to keep inflation in check. Nominal interest rates doubled in two years, and in some cases trebled.

By logic it should have been the necessary medicine — driving unproductive farmers off the land, stabilising land prices and putting pressure on the production and food cartels. It did nothing of the kind.

Cheap Government money to the Land Bank (by now technically bankrupt), the control boards and co-ops doubled between June 1983 and June 1985. Private banks piled in with R1-billion in loans and by 1990 farm debt to the government had quintupled to R1-billion — and one farmer in every four was technically



bankrupt and three out of four were in difficulty.

What followed was nothing short of horrific. Not wishing to lose an important political constituency or precipitate massive bankruptcy of the Land Bank, control boards and co-ops, the government kept doling out money, accepting in 1984 the prepos-

terous proposal by the co-ops that their future debts also be guaranteed.

In the end R3,8-billion was poured into saving the co-ops and the worst performing farmers — paid for by taxpayers, including the responsible members of the farming community. Fiske's account of this agricultural policy from

hell ends in 1994 with farmers saddled with a total debt of R20-billion, the control boards closing down, the government battling to extricate itself from the farmer's debt trap and the co-ops pruned back.

To see where the industry is going now one has to look at recent government policy papers.

The ANC's earlier policy papers and the draft White Paper on agriculture are an interesting mixture of idealism and pragmatism.

The papers correctly emphasise sustaining commercial farming, while

opening a gap for "emerging farmers" — the small and largely black guys.

The policy strives to put the emphasis on the pillars of a successful agriculture: security of tenure and access to capital, markets and training.

They argue for market-related interest rates for loans and observe that the key criterion should be the ability to repay — rather than merely the asset worth of the recipient. The

lessons of the past are weighed and single-channel marketing system given the thumbs down. Government intervention should be minimal.

All this is heartening stuff but the real test might well lie elsewhere. It is whether the government can craft an equitable land-tenure policy, and devise a successful agricultural labour policy. Both aspects, rather than financing and marketing policy, have so far generated the greatest heat and fury from the white commercial farmers.

The other test is more simple. Can the new government hold the line against the insistent pressure of the small farming lobbies, the agricultural unions and the trade unions against the old system of subsidised money, marshalled prices and huge administrative bureaucracies?

Bad old habits, as Fiske has shown, have a long shelf life.

Damage by Debt is published by the Free Market Foundation

boundless energy to amaze and formed the club for two

could better him. He was an exceptional administrator who went out of his way to solicit the media for better co-operation.

was not subject to the whims of temper-

TV sports commentator Thomas Kwenaithe summed him up best: "He was a man of gentle persuasion, who got things done in a surprising way." Ngidi is survived by his wife and children.

— Doc Bikitsha

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University of the Western Cape

AD MARK CAPE 80236

Joint water commission established

BD 7/11/95
Stephane Bothma

CO-OPERATION in water matters between SA and Botswana was boosted yesterday with the setting up of a joint water commission, water affairs and forestry said yesterday.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal and his Botswana counterpart, DN Magang, held talks in Kasane, Botswana, where wide-ranging discussion took place. The talks culminated in an agreement to establish the joint commission.

"This agreement is a breakthrough in the strengthening of bilateral relations. It will provide a forum where the two countries can agree on mutually beneficial and equitable water resources development."

The two countries share the Limpopo, Molopo and Nossob river systems. As semi-arid neighbours, both have problems of water resource management.

The ministers discussed water resource planning, rural water supply and sanitation, water quality, environmental issues, groundwater mapping and water conservation.

According to the department, more international joint water supply projects would be required to meet the challenge of water demand.

Asmal said water resource management in the subcontinent required a long-term view.

"Perspectives gained today will be broadened at the Southern African Development Community ministerial conference on water resources management in F... this month, and enable all southern African countries to embark on purposeful water resources management."

No water in N Province

(3) ~~10/11/95~~ Sowetan 8/11/95

Some people feel the shortage is a deliberate trick

By

Khathu Mamaila

WHEN NORTH-EASTERN Province premier Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi assumed office in May last year, he made one solemn promise: to provide the people with water.

"We will get water for our people, even if it means getting water from the Zambezi (River)," said Ramatlhodi.

The drought, however, continues to ravage the province.

Acting director of water affairs in the province Mr Louis Theron says there are more than one million people without water.

"The situation is deteriorating by the day. Although there have been showers here and there, the effective rainfall is zero," he says.

He adds that the level of ground water is decreasing at an alarming rate, and says the Department of Water Affairs is transporting water to more than 130 communities in the



Water shortage ... Tshififi Junior Primary School principal Mukondeleli Rampfumedzi and his pupils carry their own water to school every day.
PIC: KHATHU MAMAILA

province.

Theron says there are only 14 tankers and more are needed to supply water to the desperate communities. The department is trying to solicit help from the army as the few tankers cannot cope with the demand.

"Tanking water is very expensive. We pay between R50 and R60 for a kilolitre of water," says Theron.

While the department has opened several water projects in the province, including the Arabie Dam, water is still a scarce commodity for hundreds of thousands of villagers.

The water shortage is also affecting

learning at schools in villages where there is no water. Tshififi Junior Primary School principal Mr Mukondeleli Rampfumedzi says his pupils carry water to school.

"It has become like carrying books to school. Even the staff carry water to school," says Rampfumedzi, displaying his own container of water.

He says taps have been dry since early October: "Water is a big problem here. It has become very difficult to prepare feeding scheme meals for pupils.

"Cleaning the classrooms is another problem as most of the water

brought by the pupils is used for drinking." High school pupils carry water to school as well.

In several villages around Malamulele in the former Gazankulu homeland, water was cut in May. It was reconnected about a week ago after a threat of mass action by local residents.

Angry residents accuse the local administration of deliberately frustrating them. "We were forced to buy water. It was very difficult to wash as we had to pay up to R1 for 25 litres of water," says a disgruntled villager.

South African National Civic Organisation branch executive member

Mr Rene Mashele sums up the views of residents.

"While we all know there is drought in our area, officials at the Water Affairs Department are denying us water so that residents can rebel against the new Government and accuse it of lack of delivery," he claims.

"Most of the officials are still loyal to the previous regime and use absolutely anything to discredit the new Government. How can people stay for five months without water while there is still some water in the dam?"

Theron dismisses this argument and says the reason that water was cut in the Malamulele area is that the dam which supplies the area is almost empty.

Another villager, Ms Emma Maluleke of Mphambo settlement, says: "It is very difficult to continue with my household chores without water. In fact, I cannot describe it. You have to live it to understand it."

Residents in the Kutama area say they depend on Government trucks for their water supply. However, they say it comes only once a week.

"Villagers with boreholes are making money by selling water. Most families in rural communities depend on pension grants, but have to spend money on basic needs such as water," says villager Mr Jerry Ramaphosa.

He blames the Government for failing to provide residents with water despite promises to do so.

"There are some people who are

6 It has become like carrying books to school. Even the staff carry containers of water to school 9



Tshififi Junior Primary School pupils carry their own water to their Thohoyandou school daily.

Ravaging drought

③
8/11/95

By Khathu Mamalla

THOUSANDS of people are affected by severe shortages of water in the Northern Province, with the provincial government using water tankers to supply as many as 130 stricken communities with water daily.

Northern Province acting director of water affairs Mr Louis Theron told *Sowetan* that there were more than one million people without water at present in the province.

The provincial government had only 14 tankers which were at present servicing 130 communities, he said.

He said they needed more tankers as there were many other

desperate communities in a similar situation. His department would approach the South African National Defence Force as the 14 tankers cannot cope.

In Kutama, near Louis Trichardt, thousands of villagers have had no access to water for the last three months despite a Government allocation of R9 million for the provision of water.

Local residents told *Sowetan* that senior Government officials visited the area earlier this year and announced that the critical shortage of water in the villages around Kutama would "soon be something of the past".

Politicians had said the project would start in July and would only take a few months, said Mr Jerry

Ramaphosa of Miduluni village in Kutama.

"It is all quiet now," Ramaphosa said. "We don't know whether the whole thing was just to attract publicity. The majority of people have to buy water from those who have boreholes."

"We deserve to know what happened to the millions allocated to our area."

Theron said while he sympathised with the residents who were seriously affected by the shortage of water, the department was still busy with the planning of the project.

Asked to elaborate on reasons for the delay, Theron said there were logistical problems which had affected the planning.

● See report on page 17.

Local govt 'should start police forums'

Farouk Chothia

BD 8/11/95

DURBAN — Amnesty International suggested yesterday that the task of establishing community policing forums — which are battling to get off the ground in KwaZulu-Natal — should be left to local government structures.

Amnesty official Rod Morgan said in Durban that one could not expect the police, who lacked trust among communities, to spearhead the formation of the forums.

He said it would be preferable for local government structures, which would be made up of elected community leaders, to be in charge of the process.

Morgan — an expert on policing based at the University of Bristol in the UK — is part of an Amnesty International delegation on a fact-finding mission to SA. The delegation, lead by secretary-general Pierre Sané, is due to meet Deputy President Thabo Mbeki later this week.

Morgan said the experience of other countries had shown that police resolved between 80% and 90% of cases with the co-operation of communities. In many parts of KwaZulu-Natal there was no single community and this made it difficult to get forums off the ground. All political parties had to pledge their co-operation, or else "it is just not going to work".

Amnesty researcher Mary Rayner said the investigation task unit had shown it operated in a "highly professional" manner and was capable of investigating "very complicated" cases.

Amnesty welcomed the arrest of former defence minister Gen Magnus Malan in connection with the killing of 12 people on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast in 1987.

The case would hopefully assist in identifying the underlying causes of violence in KwaZulu-Natal, Rayner said.

Amnesty International also welcomed the security force deployment in KwaZulu-Natal, but was concerned about allegations of torture and other brutalities involving the security forces.

Talks sow new hope of farm land accord

BD 8/11/95

(3) (45)

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Ongoing talks between the land affairs department and organised agriculture could soon resolve intractable problems surrounding the controversial land reform Bill which will grant labour tenants rights to the farmland which they work.

The Land Reform Labour Tenants' Bill, which began its passage through the parliamentary land affairs committee yesterday, has, since publication on June 2, been harshly criticised by the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

The disagreement raised fears of increased evictions of labour tenants and a consequent increase in tension in rural areas where people have already died in eviction rows.

At various stages organised agriculture has threatened to refer the Bill to the Constitutional Court for infringing the land rights contained in the constitution. It was also feared in agricultural circles that a Bill granting labour tenants the right to purchase the land which they have worked for two generations might lead to similar demands from ordinary farm workers.

Sources close to the land reform debate said intensive discussions with the union had brought the chances of a deal much closer, particularly now that the definition of a labour tenant has been revised in the legislation.

In a submission to the committee

the union said it would withdraw its objections to the Bill if its suggested amendments were adopted. The objections centre around chapter three of the document which specifies under what conditions a labour tenant can access the land he has farmed in return for his labour on the land owner's farm.

The union says the economic viability of the land in question must also be considered. "To merely give someone property rights without (determining) whether it is in the public interest to do so, how it will influence the owner's rights and whether the labour tenants can utilise it economically, can never be defended on economic or any other legal or moral grounds."

The level of consultation with the agricultural sector was also criticised in the union document.

Senior land affairs official Geoff Budlender told the committee the Bill was originally published without consultation, and was made effective from date of publication and not date of promulgation, to forestall pre-emptive eviction of labour tenants. He said that since then there had been intensive discussions with the SAAU, the Natal Agricultural Union, the Transvaal Agricultural Union and a host of organisations representing the interests of the labour tenants.

The SAAU and the Natal Agricultural Union, among others, are due to give evidence to the committee today.

Farmers urged to not pay levies

Louise Cook

3 9/11/95

THE Eastern Cape Agriculture Union, representing 3 000 farmers, called on its members yesterday to stop levy payments to local authorities in a bid to force government's hand on a better deal in local government.

Transvaal farmers have refused to support the move at this stage, which non-governmental organisations have slammed as an exercise by farmers to hold the country to ransom.

Farmers have been locked in talks with government for months to lobby for 50% instead of 10% local government representation.

The Eastern Cape Agriculture Union yesterday urged farmers in the region to suspend all levy payments until February 1996.

The union said the "drastic decision was taken because the union was extremely... disgusted

that the MEC for local government... totally ignored the co-operation of the farming community.

"The farming community wants to make a success of local government, but political manoeuvring has made it impossible to be constructively involved."

Transvaal Agriculture Union GM Johan Hartman said his union would wait for a decision from the SAAU.

The SAAU said it could come to an arrangement with government by March next year when parts of the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal would be going to the polls.

But non-governmental groups including the national land committee and the Land and Agriculture Policy Centre slammed government for talking to farmers about a possible deal. They said the public would not be blackmailed by these farmers, who "feared democracy".

Sugar groups give boost to black farmers

(3) ~~CT(BR)~~ CT(BR) 9/11/95

BY JOHN SHERROCKS

Durban — In a multimillion rand black economic empowerment drive the country's two leading sugar companies are to sell 100 medium-sized farms in KwaZulu Natal to black growers.

To help ensure the success of the ventures, Tongaat Hulett and Illovo Sugar are to subsidise interest payments on the loans being provided by the KwaZulu Natal Finance and Investment Corporation (KFC) for five years on a declining scale.

For its R44 million project, Tongaat Hulett has selected prime cane land in the Maidstone, Darnall and Kearsney districts for subdivision into 70ha units.

The first four farms, being sold for an average of just under R1 million each, were officially handed over to four former Tongaat Hulett employees yesterday. A further 13 farms should be under new ownership by the end of this year. All 50 farms targeted by the group should have changed hands by 1997.

Tongaatt Hulett employees are to be given first option, but consideration will be given to outside applicants meeting business acumen, technical capability and credit rating criteria.

Illovo is to sell 50 farms under cane, ranging from 55ha to 100ha.

Glyn Taylor, the Illovo chairman, said the black growers programme was part of a fuller farm sale project, which has already seen 5 600ha sold for R22,3 million.

Twelve black buyers, selected from 120 applicants, would take occupation this month, with another eight due to move in by year-end at Mid-Illovo in the Midlands and Shakaskraal on the north coast. In the pipeline for subdivision is another 5 000ha of land on the south coast.

Long-term cane supply deals have been signed between the buyers and Illovo.

Both companies are offering technical and managerial support.

Cedric Savage, the Tongaat Hulett managing director, said the group was involved in a number of black economic empowerment projects ranging from a joint casino development to the sale of a brickworks in Grahamstown.

JB Magwaza, the Tongaat Hulett group executive director, warned that unless South African companies "embraced and engaged very seriously black economic empowerment, the future would be very bleak".

Marius Spies, the KFC executive director, said loan subsidisation by the companies had enabled the financial barriers to be cleared.

Labour tenants Bill could 'destabilise land market'

(3) (4) 30 9/11/95
Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — The Council of Southern African Bankers has expressed concern at the potential of the controversial Land Reform Labour Tenants Bill to destabilise the land market with disastrous consequences for the financial sector and the economy.

Cosab GM Stuart Grobler told the parliamentary land affairs committee yesterday the Bill would have a significant impact on the rights of agricultural property owners and financiers.

He feared sections of farms would be alienated with no controls over usage, and potential buyers might be put off by the threat of a labour tenant claim.

"Given the uncertainty which this Bill will introduce into the market and the effect of possible claims on future transactions, it is felt the period of three years for lodging claims is too long." Hard work from the land affairs department and organised agriculture could reduce this to 12-18 months.

"It is a matter of public record that the collapse of a country's land market inevitably leads to the collapse of the financial sector and plunges the economy into depression and chaos."

He urged those who were for or against the Bill to identify the extent of the labour tenant problem. Estimates ranged from 1 000 to 40 000

Grobler was also concerned that labour tenants who had won title to a portion of a farm might use the land in ways which were prejudicial to the owner. "For example the land could be developed into a squatter community and the Bill makes no provision for the prevention of this type of activity."

The phrase "just and equitable" as the basis of payments to farmers for their land had no meaning in SA law and he suggested that "a fair market value" should be used instead.

It is understood the SA Agricultural Union and land affairs have made progress towards a deal which could see the Bill passed next year.

Sugar-daddies

FM 10/11/95

Two multimillion-rand projects have been launched in KwaZulu-Natal which will see the transfer of 8 000 ha of prime sugar cane land to black farmers over the next year.

The schemes, which have a combined value of R112m, have been launched by sugar giants Illovo and Tongaat-Hulett, assisted by the KwaZulu Finance and Investment Corporation (KFC).

Since the early Seventies the sugar industry has encouraged black farmers to become involved in cane growing, but so far they have been small-scale growers. There are

BUSINESS

now about 40 000 small growers supplying about 1 Mt of cane — or 10% of the market in a normal drought-free year.

Under the Illovo and Tongaat schemes carefully selected black farmers will become major sugar cane producers. The wealth generated by their efforts should then be the engine for further black empowerment and wealth creation.

Tongaat Hulett CE Cedric Savage says a major problem with all such schemes is that the emerging black farmers must buy the properties they are farming, but they risk being crippled by mortgage debt and the interest burden.

KFC executive director Marius Spies explains that one of the biggest problems is that agricultural operations have a low (about 5% a year) rate of cash generation and hence cash flow in the first five years is constrained.

In order to overcome this the KFC has worked with the sugar companies to establish subsidy schemes to assist the

farmers in buying the land — about R14 000/ha at current market rates putting the cost of a 70 ha farm at under R1m.

Spies says the new farmers must pay a 5% deposit on the purchase price of the farms in order to qualify for finance. In the case of Tongaat, interest on repayments will qualify for a subsidy — provided and administered by the sugar company over five years.

Similar subsidy schemes have been worked out with Illovo which is to release 5 000 ha of land subdivided into farms of between 55 ha and 100 ha under cane in the Eston and Shaka's Kraal areas. The emphasis of its subsidies, however, is on the cost of the land.

Illovo MD Don MacLeod says the first stage involves the release of more than 50 farms (about 5 000 ha). "To date we have divided 1 600 ha into 20 farms and of those 12 have been sold and the buyers are due to take occupation this week. On the balance, agreements have been signed and the buyers will take occupation soon."

The Tongaat scheme, involving 3 500 ha, is, initially at least, only open to its employees, though Savage says it will probably be opened up to outside applicants at a later stage.

Farmers qualifying for land from both companies must undergo a rigorous selection process covering not only cane farming expertise and management ability, but also, in the case of Illovo, they have to be part of the local community.

The new farmers are tied into long-term agreements with the sugar companies which ensures that they have a market for their produce.



Savage

Row between Metro Rail and train drivers grows

Renee Grawitzky

THE SA Footplate Staff Association (Safsa) last night lashed out at Metro Rail, calling the organisation irresponsible for saying it would not be held to ransom by the union and would begin employing 300 black train drivers.

Safsa spokesman Chris de Vos said if Metro wanted to declare war, "we will be ready".

Contact had been made with a number of Transnet unions to join in the war against Metro, and if another strike was planned, the union would not be alone.

Metro spokesman Zukile Nomvete said the recruitment of black train drivers was part of the company's long-term strategy to ensure it reflected the broader demographics of the country.

He denied the union's assertion that this process would begin immediately.

The company had been unable to fill 55 vacancies because of union problems.

De Vos rejected allegations that the union's recent action was

an attempt to reassert its power base in the event of the mass employment of black drivers. He said it was incorrect to portray the union as predominantly white as it had a number of black members.

The union initially said the one-day strike was in response to Spoornet's decision to continue with internal disciplinary hearings against employees linked to the Mariannhill train disaster last year which claimed the lives of 68 people.

However, recent statements from the union and management have concentrated on the company's move towards implementing its affirmative action programme.

The disciplinary hearings continue today.

Sapa reported that the SA Railway and Harbours Workers' Union had said that the internal hearings against those involved in the train disaster should continue unhindered.

Safsa indicated it was not opposed to the recruitment of black drivers provided they had the nec-

essary qualifications and skills.

However, De Vos said: "You cannot train a driver overnight and this initiative by Metro indicates its preparedness to throw safety standards aside."

Nomvete said the company would look at the requirements for the employment and training of black drivers.

Meanwhile, Labour Minister Tito Mboweni has intervened in the row between the union and Metro Rail.

De Vos said Mboweni had contacted him to express his disappointment with the disruption to commuter train services that left workers stranded.

Mboweni had indicated that he would try to facilitate a meeting between the union and management to try to rebuild their relationship, De Vos said.

Metro has indicated that drivers involved in the one-day strike will be disciplined in accordance with the company's internal disciplinary procedure.

Spoornet has not taken a final decision on the matter.

Harsher Vaal water cuts loom

Kathryn Strachan

MORE severe water curbs loomed for all Vaal River system areas unless people co-operated in saving water, or unless there was a sharp increase in rainfall, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday.

The targets set for water consumption for the Vaal River system had not been achieved and rainfall was well below average for this time of year. The rainfall thus far had had no significant effect on the levels of storage dams.

"The water situation is serious and may well become critical next year," said Asmal.

The water levels of the major dams in the Vaal River system are abnormally low. The Bloemhof and the Vaal Dams are at their minimum operating levels. The Sterkfontein Dam — the last resort for system water users — has been carrying the full burden of water supply for a while. Its level of

storage has fallen by an average of 1,25% a week since mid September (from 56% to less than 45% at present).

Far more than average rainfall and runoff will have to occur in the rainy season to alleviate the situation.

All users that draw water from the main stream of the Vaal River and its tributaries, or from the dams in those rivers, as far upstream as Standerton and as far downstream as Kimberley, including the Free State Goldfields, are affected by the restrictions. They also apply to users from pipelines that serve Eskom power stations in the Highveld region of Mpumalanga.

Restrictions imposed earlier this year were: 40% of use for agricultural irrigation; 20% for urban purposes (30% on household use and 10% on use for industrial and mining purposes); 10% of use for intensive livestock feeding schemes; and 5% of use by Eskom.

The situation is being monitored and a decision will be made in January.

Loophole for killers

Susan Russell

THE DP's spokesman for justice, Douglas Gibson, has expressed concern about an apparent loophole in the Criminal Procedure Act, created by the scrapping of the death penalty, wherein the state forfeits the right to prosecute serious crimes after 20 years.

Gibson was referring to a letter from Wits University law lecturer Mervin Dendy published in the latest SA Law Journal.

Dendy said the state's right to prosecute a crime lapsed after 20 years, except for a crime where the death penalty could be imposed.

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Minister hits out at bankers' reaction to farm tenants law

Drew Forrest

LAND Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom slammed the Council of Southern African Bankers (Cosab) yesterday, describing its criticism of a planned labour tenants' law as "ill-considered, alarmist and infused with racial prejudice".

He was reacting to a Cosab submission on the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill to the parliamentary land affairs committee on Wednesday.

Cosab GM Stuart Grobler told the committee the Bill could destabilise the land market, with disastrous consequences for the financial sector and the economy. Portions of farms could be sold to labour tenants without control over the land's use and potential purchasers could be deterred by the threat of labour tenant claims, he said.

Hanekom said the Bill envisaged the settlement of most claims by negotiation between tenants and farmers. Even where tenants exercised

(3) (4) BD 10/11/95
their right to purchase, it was government policy that the market price would be paid. The sale of small portions of land would, in fact, improve farmers' cash flows and ease debt.

"My view, and that of the economists who advised us, is that there is no solid reasoning behind the suggestion that the land market will be thrown into chaos."

Reacting to Grobler's complaint that tenants might allow squatting on newly acquired land, Hanekom said it was racist to assume they were more prone to such practices than other land owners. "Indeed, as people who have lived on the land for generations and are not acquiring it for speculative purposes, they are less prone," he said. "And such small land portions far from centres of employment are not suitable for squatter settlement."

Hanekom said Cosab had taken a consistently conservative line on the

Continued on Page 2

Farm tenants

(3) (4) BD 10/11/95
Continued from Page 1

Bill and apparently lacked the imagination to see that the status quo threatened the banks' long-term interests. By stabilising rural areas, the Bill was intended to create conditions conducive to financial activity.

Wyndham Hartley reports that ANC amendments tabled yesterday stalled the approval of the Bill after organised agriculture and the National Land Committee had negotiated a compromise.

Negotiations between the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU), the committee and the land affairs department on problem areas were successful yesterday. However, the ANC tabled amendments on the issue of moving costs to be borne by farmers.

Senior land affairs official Geoff Budlender told the land affairs com-

mittee agreement had been reached on the controversial third chapter of the Bill. He said it was Hanekom's wish that every effort be made to get the SAAU on board, as long as this did not delay the Bill's passage.

When the SAAU was advised late yesterday of the amendments, it requested time to consider them and suggested that approval of the Bill be delayed until early next year. It said this would not influence the passage of the Bill through Parliament.

The committee is to meet again today. NP members agreed to discuss the changes with the SAAU last night.

An amendment to the Bill from the Chamber of Mines was accepted by the committee.

It stipulated that nothing in the legislation should deprive those who had mineral rights on a piece of ground from exercising those rights. The mineral rights would not be affected by transfer of ownership from a farmer to a labour tenant.

Committee approves farmland-for-labourers bill

Star 14/11/95

3

By JOVIAL RANTAO
Political Reporter

Farm labourers, often victims of evictions from farms on which they have lived and worked for decades, stand to benefit directly from the approval yesterday of the reworked Labour Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Land Affairs.

The draft bill, which gives the country's 30 000 labour tenants the right to buy the land they occupy, is scheduled to be presented to Parliament in February.

Committee chairman Chief Puthukile Holomisa said the approval

of the draft bill, which has received support from organised agriculture and representatives of labour tenants, was an important step in bringing justice to labour tenants and in dealing with one of the most pressing land problems.

"The problem arises out of the history of denial of access to land to Africans. The system of labour tenancy has led to a great deal of conflict, which has increased in recent years. It has made labour tenants and their families vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

"The bill deals with the problems which arise from the system of labour tenancy in a constructive way,

which will lead to long-term solutions. It does this through two methods. Firstly, it provides labour tenants with effective protection against unfair evictions. Secondly, it gives labour tenants the opportunity to become the owners of the land which they occupy and use, or alternative land, with just and equitable compensation being paid to the present land owners," Holomisa said.

According to the National Land Committee, nearly 10 000 farmworkers have been driven off land by farmers since June. Areas most affected by these evictions include KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga.

In August, the South African

Agricultural Union called for the bill, in its previous form, to be withdrawn pending an inquiry into its potential effects on commercial farming.

Members of the public have been invited to make submissions to the portfolio committee on land affairs on the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights, the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Amendment and the Communal Property Associations Bills.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary to Parliament, P O Box 15, Cape Town, 8000 (Attention: B J Ntsong) or tel: (021) 403-2771, fax: (021) 461-7969.

Marais wins over farmers

(3) 21/11/95

CHRIS BATEMAN

REGIONAL Local Government Minister Mr Peter Marais persuaded Western Cape Agricultural Union (WCAU) members yesterday to accept equal representation with labourers on rural councils.

Farmers had wanted greater council representation as they paid Regional Services Council and local council levies whereas farm labourers paid none.

Mr Johan Bothma, WCAU general services manager, said members had felt that "if we pay we want to have a say — but we accept equal division for the moment".

"We're not sure it will be best for us, but we're hoping national legislation may change in our favour."

The model Mr Marais is to lay on the table — in the face of ANC opposition — is for a rural council that is 40% proportional and 60% (30% farmer, 30% labourer) elected and has full autonomous powers identical to country towns. The rural council nominates members to a district council.

Problems to be resolved include drawing ward boundaries and laying off hundreds of RSC staffers whose duties would overlap with the rural councils.

Controversial land tenure act gives teeth to Government

(3) (21)

Nov 15/11/95

By **PATRICK BULGER**
Political Correspondent

Although Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom had several far-reaching pieces of legislation dealing with land tenure reform ready for passage through Parliament, only one made it into law.

The Development Facilitation Act, like the other land-related legislation tabled by Hanekom, was controversial for two different reasons.

On the one hand, it was interpreted by some as an attack on the property rights clause in the Interim Constitution. For example, a rejected amendment to the act read "informal tenure shall not include any form of possession which is hostile or not authorised by the rightful owner".

Whereas the property rights clause pertains to ownership, the act purports to regulate land usage. And in reality the act applies in the main to state or public land. This includes land held by a provincial government but mostly by local governments.

On the other hand, the act gives central Government powers over land development that were not afforded it in the Interim Constitution. As in the case of the disputed National Education Policy Bill, the Government's attempts to impose national and uniform norms and standards in an area of provincial governance were loudly resisted.

The act was put together by the ministries of housing (including that of the late Joe Slovo) and Hanekom against a background of which there were (and still are) two marked features: the one was the spectre of land invasion and the obvious need to provide land for residential use on a rapid and credible basis, and the second was the notorious red tape that entangles all property transactions.

The memorandum to the act describes its origins in more technical terms, saying: "The implementation of reconstruction and development programmes requires a significant increase in the rate and scale of land development in respect of a range of land uses such as industrial, commercial, community facility, residential and small-scale agricultural uses". The act also seeks to empower communities to take part in the process by which land will be set aside for certain uses.

The crux of the problem, the memorandum suggests, is that: "There is an urgent need for developed land which is provided more quickly than is normally the case in terms of the existing legislation. Such provision should, however, not de-

tract from security of tenure and sound planning. The need is for a legislative fast track through technical and complex land development procedures".

In sum, then, the act does not encroach on private land ownership per se but bigger landowners like local governments and the property developers will find their absolute right to do as they please with land at their disposal curtailed. The act sets out a list of general principles to guide land development, inter alia, the discouragement of urban sprawl and the encouragement of compact cities, the promotion of residential and employment opportunities in close proximity or integrated with each other and contributing to "the correction of the historically distorted spatial patterns of settlement in the Republic".

It provides for a development and planning commission of 24 members, nine of whom are nominated by the premiers, nine experts and three each of land development financiers and the civics. This body is there to advise the minister, to conduct research and to plan development in the broader sense.

Also established are development tribunals, one for each province, to grant exemptions to the act (for informal and unplanned settlements) and to consider land development applications.

A tribunal can impose conditions on a developer relating to the provision of engineering services, the provision of open spaces like parks, the suspension of restrictive conditions or servitudes and the applicability of national building standards regulations.

Tribunals are also given the task of deciding "whether the settlement of persons, or the erection or occupation of buildings is in any manner inconsistent with any provision or object of this act". It may then refuse to grant an exemption to the act.

In doing so the tribunal has to consider the health issues, whether services can be provided, the area's proximity to jobs and other matters relating to the feasibility of the settlement.

If these criteria are not met, the application can be refused. The act also gives provincial MECs the power to decide on land usage in the absence of such a decision from the developer and local authority.

There is a whole range of other legislation that governs state and private activity in the realm of land development and which are amended by the act.

■ This is the seventh in a series of important legislation to emerge from the 1995 session of Parliament.

Land subsidy remains at R15 000 in Green Paper

Louise Cook

(3) ~~(3)~~
 BD 16/11/95

THE Green Paper on land reform had ignored overwhelming demand for the "settlement and land acquisition" subsidy to be raised, with the amount remaining pinned at R15 000, land affairs department director of redistribution and co-ordination Lala Steyn said yesterday.

The move followed consensus by most delegates at the national conference on land policy in August that the subsidy was insufficient.

In the Green Paper, expected to be released next month, government also ignored calls for special subsidies by new farmers who would not receive any extra assistance to establish themselves.

Government was unable to improve on the subsidy, but Steyn said the paper would clarify much confusion around service delivery. It would focus on credit and accessing loans.

She said the need for farm land, small businesses and residential land was not mutually exclusive; it depended on what

was affordable.

"Rather than focusing on handouts, we have focused on creating an enabling environment in which financial and civic organisations and the private sector could work together."

The most difficult task was to reconcile the different land reform options, and definite decisions on issues had to be taken.

Steyn said that the Green Paper would spell out, for the first time, a comprehensive policy on land management, allocating specific responsibilities to all government departments.

However, she refused to comment on government's likely policy on valuation when assessing land claims, saying there was still no agreement on the issue.

The Green Paper would be finalised at the end of November and released for comment in the first week of December.

A White Paper on land reform would be ready in April next year, according to a newly released land affairs department document, Proceedings of the National Conference on Land Policy.

Bill's success lies in its implementation

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Last week's negotiations in Parliament over the labour tenants Bill have shown that the nation's much hailed spirit of political compromise is alive and well.

The Land Reform Labour Tenants Bill precipitated much controversy as it went before the portfolio committee.

Bankers claimed it could destabilise the land market, and called for the process to be speeded up. Organised agriculture described it as a land grab by the state, and threatened Constitutional Court action. Activists, alarmed at evictions of labour tenants, demanded action to halt such evictions and to provide compensation for any assets which had to be abandoned.

But the willingness of the various protagonists, from the SA Agricultural Union to the National Land Committee, to sit down and negotiate a Bill with which they could live rather than retreat into conflict, was encouraging.

It is important to understand what the legislation — which will be passed early next year — will do to both farmers and the so-called labour tenants.

A labour tenant is a person who has traded his labour to a farmer in return for a small portion of land on which to grow crops and graze cattle. The national land committee claims that few, if any, labour tenants are paid any cash, while others in organised agriculture say that invariably there is an allocation of land, perhaps a little money, and food — hence a definition that a labour tenant is someone paid predom-

inantly in access to land. Quite what proportion will be used is unclear — if it is too low, then genuine labour tenants could be excluded, and if too high then hosts of farm labourers around the country could qualify.

It is a fact that since 1913 black people have been precluded from owning agricultural land. The Land Act, when seen in the context of a traditional system of communal ownership, and the land grab which went with conquest, effectively meant that only a handful of black people were able to hang on to agricultural land.

There were subsistence farmers in the reserves created by the British (and later amplified by apartheid), but very few with freehold title. Many black farmers were effectively turned into "bywoners" on land which they had farmed for generations.

When the NP government of the early '60s tried to outlaw labour tenancy, there were mass evictions. The infamous Msinga area in KwaZulu-Natal is a case in point. In the 1950s the Tomlinson commission report recorded that Msinga, with less than 20 000 residents, was overcrowded and the land could not support the masses of cattle. After the labour tenant evictions of the '60s and '70s, the population of the Msinga area grew to more than 250 000 people. Only money earned through migrant labour on the mines kept them alive.

Apartheid's systematic removal of "black spots", using the homelands as dumping grounds, made it all that much worse. The idea, of course, was to

create two reservoirs of people — in the hostels and townships for industry and the mines and pockets on the farms for agriculture — and the rest should reside in rural poverty exercising political rights in ethnic homelands.

Our common law provides that a person can claim ownership of a piece of land after 30 years of uninterrupted residence. Many labour tenants have resided on their pieces of land for much longer than that. There is no question that they should enjoy some rights on the land which they occupy. That evictions should be made extremely difficult, that farmers and tenants should have access to the courts, and that courts should be empowered to order compensation are principles in the Bill which received little opposition.

The SA Agricultural Union argues the world trend is movement to cities and away from rural areas. Citing the fact that in the US all agricultural land is owned by less than 10% of the population, it argues land should be found in the cities. This is a wonderful red herring. If the labour tenants have been on the farms for more than two generations, they have demonstrated a clear intention to remain rural dwellers. It is frankly not the issue.

They also claim, with some justification, that the legislation will create small unviable pockets of privately owned land. Natal Agricultural Union president Graham MacIntosh warned that many labour tenants enjoyed services on farms which they would be unable to provide for themselves, for example the tenant's cattle being dipped

(3) (4) BD 17/11/95

with the farmer's herd, or the tenant's seed being planted along with the farmer's in a crop-sharing deal. Without this support, many labour tenants will be unable to continue with their agricultural work. And if the farmer is forced to sell a portion of his farm to the labour tenant, he will simply turn off access to these benefits.

A byproduct could be that more farm workers will enjoy fewer fringe benefits as farmers pay them in cash only, in a bid to avoid them earning a classification as labour tenant.

"They sent a clear message to commercial agriculture that farm labourers and workers should not be given benefits other than cash, that farmers should seek to employ as few people as possible; have fewer, if any, living on their farms. That can be bad for the whole country," MacIntosh said.

There is no doubt that the activists from the National Land Committee talk with justification about the power imbalances between farmers and labour tenants; that labour tenants have been exploited and have frequently lost everything upon summary eviction. But, as a member of the land affairs committee remarked, neither the legislation, nor the activists, take into account the position of a blue overalled labour tenant facing a burly suntanned farmer in the middle of nowhere and demanding his rights. The absolute key to the Land Reform Labour Tenants Bill, regardless of whether a particular farmer, or a particular labour tenant is right or wrong, lies in how it is implemented.

30 000 farm workers laid off as drought takes its toll

(3) (2) BD 17/11/95
Bonile Ngqiyaza

ABOUT half of Northern Province's 60 000 farm workers had been laid off this year because of drought, provincial agricultural department spokesman Jerry Mashapu said yesterday.

More than 2-million people, including farmers and their families, were "directly affected by the drought", which six weeks into the rainy season showed no signs of abating, he said. "Even if rains do come, farmers will have to change their pattern of planting and grow other crops."

He said R67m had been made available by central government for drought relief. "There was a real possibility that the remaining 30 000 farm workers would be laid off" before the funds were made available.

A one-off R8,4m subsidy was available to small-scale irrigation farmers who irrigated from renewable, sustainable water sources where restrictions had been imposed.

The water quota in the year of application should be less than 10% and should not exceed 100% of the normal annual quota in the preceding two years, Mashapu said.

Another R8,4m, to be disbursed as re-establishment loans, would help producers who, between early last year and October this year had lost trees and long-term crops as a result of the drought, while the provincial government was offering R46m in aid to dry land crop farmers and R4m would go towards a stock feeding scheme.

The province had made a R35,2m provision for temporary employment which would go to subsistence farmers. The northern region (formerly Venda), the lowveld region (formerly Gazankulu), and the central and southern regions had been hardest hit.

The bushveld and western regions were not affected much because they were sparsely populated and inhabited mostly by white commercial farmers, Mashapu said.

Cosab supports reform Bill

BD 17/11/95

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Dear Sir,
THE editorial "Shaping change" (Business Day, November 13) contains a mixture of praise and criticism of the Council of Southern African Banks' submission on the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill to the parliamentary standing committee on land affairs. It would appear, however, that Business Day, both in its editorial and front page articles on November 9 and 10 has missed the context and thrust of our submission:

Firstly, at no stage has Cosab opposed or resisted the Bill, and this is clear from our written submission and answer to a question from the committee members; we have commented constructively on both versions of the Bill and several of our suggestions on the first draft were incorporated as changes (eg the provision of servitude to provide for access and water rights).

Second, at no stage has Cosab indicated that this particular Bill will result in chaos; we are aware that there are a number of Bills and Acts which compromise the total land reform programme (including the Land Restitution Act and the Development Facilitation Act) and have consistently motivated that the en-

tire land reform process should be undertaken in a speedy and sensitive manner to maintain rights to property, order, security of tenure and the minimum of uncertainty.

We believe that, given the investment — directly and indirectly — by households in property (eg own homes, via bank deposits, pension funds retirement funds or life policies) an orderly and certain land and property market is in the best interests of the country and its people. It should also be noted that our submission in fact questions the probable effect of the particular Bill under discussion and motivates a precise determination of its effects.

Third, there has been a lot of focus on our concern about squatters, with claims that we are racist; the key point in our submission has been missed however — we have argued for clear guidelines either in the Bill or subsequent regulations for proper management of the integrated farming unit; this applies equally well to land use (eg to pre-

vent overgrazing; to minimise soil erosion), programmes such as disaster or drought aid, or squatters.

With specific reference to squatters it was also clearly stated in the verbal submissions that "unscrupulous developers" could acquire the land and develop it into squatter developments — there was no racist presumption that every labour tenant would do this; it should be noted that this motivation for integrated management also applies equally to the main property owner, whose actions could also jeopardise the rights to the labour tenants' portions of the farm.

Fourth, as long as the banking sector has a fiduciary responsibility towards its depositors it will continue to lend their savings in a conservative manner; the history of banking both locally and internationally is filled with examples of banks or whole systems which have failed because of injudicious lending based on the perceived security of land.

Fifth, the Bill does not make pro-

vision for market prices, but for just and equitable compensation; we have heard arguments from certain non-governmental organisations active in land matters that in determining a just and equitable price, assistance over the years to the farm owners should be taken into account, eg once a market value has been determined it should be reduced by the amount of drought aid received from government, and then further reduced by the accumulated amount of subsidised interest on low-interest loans from the Land Bank or Agriculture Credit Board.

Our argument was that this would represent unjust expropriation in that a neighbouring farmer who sold his property free of labour tenant claims would receive full market value for his property whereas the one affected by claims would receive significantly less for the portions subject to the claims. If the intention is to pay a market price without reductions as has been confirmed by the minister,

then this should be clearly stated in the Bill.

Sixth, it should be remembered that mortgage lenders have a long term relationship with the owners of land bonded to them. Speculators, developers and builders take their profit in the short term and then move on. Similarly, bureaucrats come and go and official policies change. Mortgage lenders, however, are involved over the remaining life of the property where credit has been and continues to be used. It is therefore in their interests to ensure that land reforms are done with the long term perspective also in view. We believe our submission did this.

As can be seen Cosab has been engaged in constructive and creative debates with land affairs, its consultants and Parliament in an effort to ensure the continuation of an orderly, secure and certain land and property market. It is the debate in Business Day which has been focused on "narrow, short term concerns" based on isolated comments taken out of the context of the whole land reform programme.

STUART GROBLER
Assistant GM
Cosab

Black farmers targeted for assistance

Louise Cook

GOVERNMENT's drive to help black farmers would benefit at least 700 000, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said at the weekend. (3) B020/11/95

Last year the department set up a programme dubbed Broadening Access to Agriculture Thrust to help previously disadvantaged black farmers, in line with its White Paper that focused mainly on the needs of smaller farmers.

Speaking at the International Federation of Agricultural Producers conference in Pretoria, van Niekerk warned that government would apply a "very strict" selection programme for new farmers.

"Currently only 25% of the

600 000 commercial farmers (including 1 500 black farmers) in SA produced 80% of the food. SA had 70 000 established small-scale farmers of which 44 000 were sugar farmers, earning between R900 to R2 000 disposable income a month."

Van Niekerk declined to name the number of people wanting to break into farming, but said the drive would help 500 000 farmers in the former homelands.

"The major focus will be on developing services for those who were previously excluded from such services. However, this will occur without neglecting the existing established commercial farming sector — so as to ensure food security."

Van Niekerk said small-scale farmers were being empowered to practice "sustainable farming based on the right principles".

The drive has not found favour with the SA Agriculture Union, (SAAU), which has warned commercial farmers not to look to government for any assistance.

Former SAAU president Boet Fourie said in a report in the union's official mouthpiece, The Farmer, that since government assistance had switched to small-scale farmers, established farmers had had to fend for themselves, even when confronted with natural disasters. "Drought aid has become an instrument that government would use to achieve welfare goals," he said.

COMMITTEES TO CONTROL COMMUNAL PROPERTY

New land law will erode power of chiefs

CONTROL of communal land may in future be held by elected committees which in turn will be accountable to the communities they represent if a new law before Parliament is passed. **BARRY STREEK** reports.

NEW legislation which puts communal property in the hands of elected committees, and which will significantly remove the power of chiefs and traditional leaders over communal land, has been tabled in Parliament.

The Communal Property Associations Bill would create a new juristic person, a committee, which could acquire property on behalf of disadvantaged communities.

A memorandum attached to the bill says it was "designed to provide a relatively simple and

accessible mechanism through which group ownership systems may be recognised".

However, to qualify for these benefits, communal property associations will have to "conform to certain basic public standards of fair process, democratic accountability and equality".

The bill provides that the interim committees of the associations have to be democratically elected and once established they will have to have "fair and inclusive decision-making processes" and equality of membership among

ET 21/11/95 (3) members of the communities.

Their democratic processes will have to ensure that all members of the communities concerned receive adequate notice of meetings, are able to participate in any general meetings, receive copies of minutes and inspect financial statements.

Audited

The committees of the associations will have to be accountable to its members and financial records will have to be audited annually.

The bill also provides for the monitoring and inspection of the communal property associations by the director-general of Land Affairs.

Farmers want more govt aid

Louise Cook

BO 21/11/95 (3)

THE International Federation of Agricultural Producers which represents 500-million farmers worldwide, plan to take a special stand at next year's UN World Food Summit, in the face of decreasing support from governments.

The resolution was taken yesterday at a conference in Pretoria on rural development and poverty, the federation's first conference in SA.

Federation president Graham Blight said the world had forgotten that it was the farmer that fed the nation.

Drought in north may cost 63 000 farm jobs

(3) Star 22/11/95

Some families, who know only farm life, may lose homes they've had for 50 years

By **PATRICK PHOSA**

The continuing drought in the Northern Province would result in about 63 000 farmworkers losing their jobs, said Department of Agriculture spokesman Jerry Mashapu.

He said the province was experiencing its worst drought yet which would put about 5 000 commercial farmers out of business. Already 33 000 farm labourers had lost their jobs and consequently their accommodation.

"Farm labourers lose the places they have been living for many years, in some cases for at least 50 years. Where do they go and what will their source of income be?

"Such people do not know any other home except the farm," said Mashapu.

Fears abound that soaring unemployment would lead to the crime levels rocketing.

"I can only pray that this state of affairs does not culminate in crime," said Mashapu.

To minimise the effects of drought, farmers would have to shift away from their normal crops and grow short season plants like sunflowers, he said.

Mashapu said the department had put aside R67-million for five far-reaching disaster/drought relief measures: a stock-feeding scheme, assistance to dryland crop farmers (less than 10ha), assistance to dryland crop farmers (more than 10ha), a one-off subsidy to small scale irrigation farmers and a single amount interest subsidy on re-establishment loans in relation to perennial crops.

The above measures which were to be put in place last week to alleviate drought in the whole province would be financed by agricultural co-operatives, agricultural corporations, Landbank and organised agriculture.

Mandela throws weight behind farmers' trek

Louise Cook

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has thrown his weight behind another trek by SA farmers, this time to bring prosperity and jobs to central Africa.

Spokesman Parks Mankahlana said yesterday the plans — which included SA farmers taking special exchange control and tax packages in tow — would boost development in SA and the rest of the continent.

The Free State Agricultural Union had vowed to fight famine in Africa, contain immigration by creating jobs outside SA and provide new pastures for farmers facing a barren domestic

market. Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, Congo, Ghana and Ivory Coast were likely destinations.

The union said there had been "immense interest" from farmers and that thousands of "pioneers" could emerge.

Union president Piet Gouws said the financial concessions had yet to be finalised, but that the plans were part of a joint drive by government and agricultural unions to create a southern African trading block. The proposals were supported by the European Union and the World Bank, he said.

The finance department would be called on to arrange concessionary packages with its counterparts in other

African states and intergovernment contracts would be drawn up. The agriculture department had recruited a consultant to draw up the contracts. First-stage agreements had been signed with Angola and Mozambique.

The move follows the creation earlier this week of an SA Chamber of Agricultural Development in Africa. Chamber chairman and Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said the organisation would drum up cash on the capital markets to fund development in Africa.

"In the past such moves to the north may have been political," he said. "This is strictly a commercial venture."

BD23/11/97 (3)

Consumer to carry costs of expensive new water projects

CT(MR) 24/11/95 (3) (128)

BY FIONA LENEY

Johannesburg — The days of cheap water are over, and consumers should brace themselves for paying the true value of a precious and vanishing resource, the water department says.

With South Africa fast developing its last water resources, the options for providing adequate supplies were limited, Johan van Rooyen of the Department of Water and Forestry, said yesterday.

At a conference on sustainable water supplies, Van Rooyen said the cost of increasingly expensive new water projects would have to be borne by consumers.

"Vaal users will have to carry the full cost through water tariffs," he said. The department charges 39,6c for a cubic metre of "raw" water — about 25 percent of the total tariff paid by urban users. The rest is added by Rand Water and local authorities for purification and distribution. The cost of the new projects will push the raw-water tariff to about 80c a cubic metre, although the rise in the final total domestic tariff will be pegged to 25 percent, phased in over time.

Poorer users are to be cushioned by a "lifeline tariff", aimed at subsidising basic supplies.

Experts said that curbing individual consumption was the only way South Africa could keep up with the demands of a growing population and rising industrial output. But the options were limited.

Curbing agricultural irrigation, which accounted for 50 percent of water use, compared with a combined urban and industrial use of 27 percent, was a complex and sensitive topic. Farmers paid far less for their water than other consumers, a situation which had to change, said Archer Davis of Rand Water.

"Agriculture uses a lot of water, and it is not where wealth is generated. The pricing structure should reflect that," he said. But economists said that a sharp rise in farm water prices was likely to push up food prices and inflation. In any case, much irrigation re-uses return flows from urban areas. Van Rooyen said that this water could only be recycled at the cost of desalination, a process still too expensive to be worthwhile.

New projections suggest that even the Lesotho Highlands Water



STORMY OUTLOOK Johan van Rooyen of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, shelters from the rain outside the Gauteng water conference

PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOF

Project, due to come on-stream in 1998, and once touted as the answer to Gauteng's water problems, is not going to meet the region's industrial and domestic needs for long. By 2006, demand will outstrip the water supplied by phase one of the project. The planned second and third phases may not be feasible, according to recent data which sug-

gests not enough water is available in the Orange River catchment area. Van Rooyen said the river's flow was being reappraised, and results would be available in early 1997.

But the Water Research Commission said that the river was barely running, and the lack of water was raising fears for the ecologically important wetlands around the

river's mouth. With the Orange River prospects so poor, the Tugela basin in KwaZulu Natal is the next possible supply source.

This, the cheapest of the supply options, will mean raising about R2.2 billion. With more costly projects under consideration, the department may need to go to capital markets for funding.

End to Northern Province drought may be in sight

PRETORIA — It looks as if the drought — even that in the Northern Province — has broken, a weather bureau spokesman said yesterday.

He was commenting on soaking rains that had fallen over large sections of SA since last Friday.

The forecast indicated that whatever respite people enjoyed from the rain, particularly in the eastern half of the country, would be brief.

While some clearing was expected today, a cold front was expected to push in from the east tomorrow, bringing more rain to Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northern Province and the northeastern Free State.

Sections of the Limpopo River on Northern Province's border were in flood yesterday.

This was apparently because farmers along the Limpopo had erected makeshift dams to save what water they could during the past years of drought.

Officials at Beitbridge border post north of Messina said the Limpopo was flowing strongly, but had not burst its banks. The border post between SA and Botswana at Zanzibar was reopened after being closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Tzaneen Dam, a major source of water to Northern Province fruit farmers, began receiving an inflow yesterday after 111mm of rain fell in the district. Officially registered as empty on Monday, the dam stood at just more than 0,5% of its capacity yesterday morning. Many KwaZulu-Natal Midlands rivers and streams were also reported to be in flood.

Water affairs and forestry spokesman Klaus Triebel said another 600mm to 800mm of rain was needed to affect appreciably the level of Gauteng's primary water source, the Vaal Dam. — Sapa.

Asmal's water plan

Kevin O'Grady

PRETORIA — The long-term water crisis facing Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries could result in "conflict, both internally and between countries", Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday.

Opening a conference of SADC water affairs ministers, Asmal said the crisis could "cripple the sustainability of our development if not handled with great foresight".

The time had come for SADC countries to plan for the development of water resources on a regional basis.

He suggested building dams in water-rich areas and focusing agricultural production in areas where the most favourable climate and soils occurred.

"Should we not irrigate in those areas where greatest returns can be achieved and export the products to where the needs are?" he asked.

"We should imaginatively remove all historical boundaries to facilitate an objective and broad view on the re-

sources and development potential of the region as a whole.

An underlying principle should be to strive for more diversified economies throughout the region and for co-operation to be based on equity and mutual development, he said.

Apart from the relief from drought that could be achieved through inter-basin water transfers, the diversified and regionally integrated economies which could result would also alleviate the effects of drought.

"The dull legalisms of the past, based on prior application and with heavy emphasis on sovereign rights, must be replaced by new principles of fairness, equity and environmental protection," Asmal said.

Thought should be given to harnessing "the mighty rivers of Africa, like the Zambezi and Zaire rivers, for the transfer of water to the south. It may just hold the trigger to greater infrastructural developments, training and the interlinking and diversifying of our economies."

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Water issues crucial for southern African growth

Stow 24/11/95

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By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

A regional development plan is the next crucial step for the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal said yesterday.

Speaking in Pretoria at the SADC's first conference to focus on water resource management, Asmal called for the "imaginative removal of all historical boundaries to facilitate an objective

and broad view on resources and development potential of the region as a whole and joint decisions on how they should be used".

"To do this, we should study our overall resources, determine our comparative and competitive advantages and identify the obstacles to development from an integrated perspective."

He emphasised that while such an initiative would go much wider than water to include all sectors of the SADC, water was an essential issue.

Other speakers stressed that the reason for past policy failures was associated with current approaches to water resource management. Several speakers called for water issues to be moved to the top of the SADC agenda.

Delegates from the twelve SADC states at the conference included water ministers and senior officials of their departments. They are tasked with developing a vision for the future and to draw up a programme for the way forward in resource management.

Farmers 'uninformed'

(3) Stan 25/11/95
Farmers who intended settling elsewhere in Africa were not sufficiently informed about conditions there or what preparations to make, Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

Details of customs regulations and currency control should be ascertained. "Farmers are also encouraged to acquaint themselves beforehand with agricultural and security conditions in the countries."

Although their settlement might be organised by individuals or farmers' organisations, arrangements were subject to guidelines laid down by the Cabinet in May. The Government had acted as a cautious facilitator in farmer settlement projects because they could promote food security in southern Africa. - Sapa

Vaal dam filling fast but water curbs stay

(3) (4/27)

Although level is poised to reach 25% today from 13% just a week ago, recent rains have not been nearly enough to put paid to water restrictions

BY TROYE LUND AND TARYN LAMBERTI

The steady rainfall over the past 10 days has boosted the Vaal dam's level to almost double its previous mark, but authorities have warned that the good news does not herald a lifting of water restrictions.

The dam's level was at a critical 13% only two weeks ago, but Rand Water said yesterday the level stood at about 23,5% and was expected to reach 25% later today.

More good news is that the rain has in places saturated groundwater reserves, so further falls will flow directly to dams instead of being absorbed into the earth.

"Water tables have been sufficiently increased for the majority of rain to come to runoff into the dams," a spokesman at Rand Water's Vereeniging pumping station said yesterday.

But Rand Water dismissed talk of an early lifting of water restrictions, saying "above average rains need to fall in the coming summer months for the groundwater table to be maintained and to fill dams enough

to last Gauteng beyond next year".

It would consider relaxing present restrictions only once Vaal dam reached "a minimum of 50%".

A Rand Water spokesman said recent rains had definitely not been enough.

"The water in the dams has to last until at least 1998 when the Lesotho Highlands project is supposed to begin supplementing Gauteng's water supply," the spokesman said.

'Minimum of 50% is needed'

He said at least another 200mm needed to fall in the catchment area before Vaal dam could get anywhere near 50%.

The 100mm average recorded so far in the area has raised the level by more than 10%.

Further proof of the improving situation at Vaal dam has led to the suspension of pumping water from Sterkfontein dam, which is a feeder for the Vaal. Rand Water said pump-

ing from the Sterkfontein would resume only if and when the Vaal dropped below 14%.

The Bloemhof dam, which is fed by the Vaal, had risen in the past two weeks from 7 to 12,8% - and pumping would resume only if Bloemhof's levels dropped below 6%.

Despite all the good news, the Rand Water spokesman warned against too much optimism.

"Although the Vaal's levels seem to be rising from runoff by about 1,5% each day, we expect this to drop off soon if there is no more rain. It took a while for the rains to start affecting the levels because most of the rain was being absorbed into ground with an extremely low water table."

Meanwhile, the Weather Bureau predicted rains over large parts of the country today.

There is a 20% chance of thundershowers in Gauteng in the evenings until Thursday. But conditions should be considerably drier than they were last week.

Mpumalanga can expect cloudy and cold conditions over the escarpment today with fog and drizzle overnight. Thundershowers are expected on the highveld this evening.

Star 27/11/95

EU to fund feasibility study

ET(BR) 30/11/95(3) (6)

BY JOHN FLEMING

Maputo — The EU is to fund a feasibility study, which if positive, could see South African farmers moving to Mozambique.

The EU ambassador to South Africa, Erwan Fouere said: "The European Union is prepared to fund a feasibility study for this project ... (if it) is positive then the EU will be prepared to continue funding the project, but these funds will have to be drawn from the existing EU budget for the region."

According to Chris Jordaan, the secretary of the newly created South African Chamber of

Agricultural Development in Africa, it was thought the programme to move the farmers to Mozambique would be funded by the government, but they met with bureaucratic and financial problems. Jordaan, Dries Bruwer, the president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, and other representatives from agricultural unions, decided to create the chamber to attract international aid. "We realised that this project was simply not going to work if it depended on government funding," said Jordaan. The chamber is not a government or parastatal organisation and can be funded by donors and the private sector. — Independent Foreign Service.

EU backs boers' trek to Mozambique

m+G 1-7/12/95 (3) (256)

Despite resistance from many influential Mozambicans, the project to settle Afrikaner farmers in Mozambique appears to be gathering favour. **Marion Edmunds** reports

THE European Union (EU) has agreed to finance research into the viability of settling South African farmers in Mozambique and other African countries.

Funding for the research would come from EU funds earmarked for the Reconstruction and Development Programme and, depending on the outcome, could lead to further EU money being made available to settle Afrikaner farmers in South Africa's neighbouring states, according to EU ambassador Erwan Fouéré.

A letter has been written to Shaheed Rajie, the Director for International Funding in the RDP office, with this proposal.

The organisation wanting to dispatch farmers to African countries, the South African Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa (Sacada), has interpreted the EU's gesture as a sign that the project — which is being championed by President Nelson Mandela — is receiving international recognition. Sacada secretary Willie Jordaan said this week that the EU had said the farming project "was the best noise out of Africa in the past 30 years".

He said that Sacada had endeavoured to bring its policies into line with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and claimed that it was set to become an international development agency.

Jordaan said his organisation had

been approached by about 12 African countries interested in white South African farmers but, at the moment, was concentrating on Mozambique, Zambia, Zaire and Angola, with Mozambique being the test case. Mandela's spokesperson Parks Mankahlana said this week Mandela has asked the Tanzanian government to accept Afrikaner farmers to help develop the agricultural sector.

Both Mankahlana and the Mozambican Embassy denied Mozambicans had opposed the settlement of Afrikaner farmers, as was reported on SABC radio this week. The Mozambican government could not be reached for comment yesterday. But a negotiator from Mozambique's agriculture ministry has been quoted on several occasions as saying Afrikaner farmers were neither needed nor wanted in large numbers. He said they would not want to be settled on land in communities and that, in certain provinces, like Maputo, they would not be welcome at all, and would never get freehold possession of the land.

According to Jordaan, about 1 000 people, disillusioned with the new South Africa, are poised to trek to Mozambique. One, Egbert Hiemstra, cites affirmative action, trade unions, new land legislation and drought in South Africa as reasons to invest and farm in neighbouring states.

Not that it's going to cost much hard cash to farm across the border. He



General Constand Viljoen: Convinced President Mandela of the benefits of the project

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

says Mozambique will lease land to the farmers at 60 cents per hectare per year, if not give it away for free. He said negotiations with President Mandela are under way to allow the farmers to have dual citizenship and continue to vote in South African elections.

Hiemstra already owns two farms in Lydenburg, and wants a third in Mozambique.

Although he has been to Mozambique to have a look around on behalf of Sacada, he has not yet chosen the spot he hopes will be his.

"It's like being a small child in a sweet shop," he said. "There are just so many beautiful, fertile places to choose from."

Hiemstra denies the project is a

throw-back to the past, a desperate attempt to create an Afrikaner *volkstaat* in a country too poor to resist.

"It's not an *apartheidspolitieksoefie*," he said indignantly. For every two farmers who settle, Sacada has promised to train and establish one local black Mozambican as a commercial farmer. Anybody will be able to attend their schools, if they are prepared to respect Hiemstra's "community's standards" and anybody can come on the great trek, as long as they are strong, fit and enterprising. Two black South Africans have asked to be part of the project, said Hiemstra. When approached this week, Fouéré was cautiously optimistic about the project.

"The project could be successful in so far as it seeks to promote complementary progress in agriculture in the region and in so far as it makes the transfer of expertise possible and allows development where it is badly needed."

Fouéré has had discussions with General Constand Viljoen, who initiated the project, and has convinced Mandela of its benefits. Viljoen had argued to Mandela that settling Afrikaner farmers would stimulate the economies of neighbouring states and provide food and employment for locals, and that this would stem the flow of illegal immigrants into South Africa. But not all Mozambicans believe white South African farmers are the solution to their problems.

One analyst, who asked not to be named, said: "Mozambique needs capital, not white South African farmers."

Govt poised to raise interest rates on agricultural loans

Louise Cook

GOVERNMENT was expected to announce an interest rate hike from 8% to 14% on short-term agricultural loans today, agriculture department sources said yesterday.

They said Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg had approved the increased rate in a bid to phase out subsidised interest rates to farmers.

Government would also put up interest rates to 14% from the current 8% on existing medium- and long-term loans for farmers in arrears on repayments on government loans.

The move would affect mainly 7 000 commercial farmers who owed the state about R500m in arrear payments, sources said.

However, the department's communications arm denied any final decisions had been taken on new interest rates. Communications director Margriet Engelbrecht said Deputy Minis-

ter Thoko Didiza "was still talking to farmers" and an announcement would be made in due course.

Sources said government would tighten up on outstanding debt from farmers and that Didiza had called for a report on the situation, they said.

Farmers who reneged on repayments for longer than a month after April would be liable to pay the new rate of 14%. Once the rate was put up, they would lose the 8% rate benefit.

Sources said the 8% rate would still apply to new medium and long-term loans, but farmers would have to adhere to repayment agreements.

In terms of the White Paper on Agriculture, government had adopted a new policy on interest rates which would see market-related rates phased in to replace subsidised ones.

The agriculture department yesterday launched a R150m scheme to help small and beginner farmers who would pay the higher rate of 14%.

BD 11/12/95

(3)

Little support for govt farm loan idea

BD 1/12/95
Louise Cook

THE government-backed R150m outreach programme to small and beginner farmers announced in August failed to attract support from financial institutions wary of the credit risk involved, agriculture department director Dirk Henrico said yesterday.

Government needed major commercial banks to act as lending agents. Only Agribank in the Northwest, the Agricultural Bank of Transkei, the KwaZulu Finance Corporation, development corporations and smaller financial corporations, some in the former homelands, and the Transkei Agricultural Corporation have shown any interest in the programme.

Henrico said banks and large agricultural co-operatives had been discouraged by the non-existent credit records of small and beginner farmers, seeing the risk as unwarranted.

In terms of the proposed deal, the government would advance the R150m at 2% interest to agents, who would be responsible for recovering

the money.

"So far, indications are that 35 000 small and beginner farmers have applied."

Government viewed the scheme as a chance for small and beginner farmers to build up credit records.

Depending on results, the scheme could either be changed or replaced with a totally different plan, possibly another state guarantee scheme, in three years' time.

Agriculture department acting assistant director Gerrie du Plessis said the R150m could be insufficient to meet the demand for loan financing for this sector.

The department had launched its R210m small farmer aid programme in August.

It allocated R150m to boost the buying of machinery and implements and production inputs such as seed, chemicals and fertiliser.

In terms of the scheme, a farmer would be able to apply for a loan of up to R50 000.

The remaining R60m was earmarked for special projects, and still had to be allocated, Henrico said.

Banks welcome rate hike on farmers' loans

Louise Cook

BD 4/12/95
MAJOR banks welcomed government's weekend announcement of a hike in interest rates to 14% on short-term agricultural loans and, where farmers were in arrears, on medium- and long-term loans.

Standard Bank agricultural division head Rudi Wilsnach said it was a sign of sound financial discipline, but warned the higher rates were "the last straw" for debt-ridden farmers who were likely to go insolvent.

Agriculture deputy minister Thoko Didiza announced on Friday an interest rate hike to 14% from 8% on short-term agricultural loans and said it would also raise interest rates to 14% by April on existing medium- and long-term loans for farmers in arrears on loans from the Agricultural Credit Board.

The move would affect about 7 000 commercial farmers who were in arrears for about R500m on payments on medium- and long-term loans.

Standard Bank's Wilsnach said: "Previously there was no incentive not to pay the state. They (government) will now get what they have been trying to achieve for years."

"We have always held the view that interest rates should be market related — but 14% is not yet at that level," First National Bank agriculture division head Jan van Zyl said.

Agricultural unions were unavailable for comment but it is believed the 14% interest rate on short-term loans could anger small farmers from the National African Farmers' Union.

Water warning bells sounding

Staff Reporter

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ARG 4/12/95
THE water warning bells have been sounded again — if we don't plan and manage our limited water resources properly, the Western Cape could face a serious water shortage in the next five years.

Although a number of studies have been undertaken to identify what the region's options are, the time has now come for water consumers to put forward their ideas.

Carol Green of Zille Shandler Associates, who act as consultants for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, said the department had asked engineers six years ago to study the future water needs of the area.

"They wanted suggestions about

how to meet the needs at the lowest cost, yet in a way that would protect the environment. This resulted in a report called the Western Cape System Analysis.

"The study shows how fast the demand for water in the region is growing and how it will continue to grow.

"It warns that existing dams on the province's main rivers will only provide enough water to meet the growing demand for the resource until 1998 — but also comes up with a list of ideas like towing icebergs, building more dams and using water from the Cape Flats aquifer."

She said a series of educational workshops will be held — the first tonight in the Paarl Banqueting Hall — to discuss some of the projects.

Drought hindering water projects, says minister (3)

BD 5/12/95

PRETORIA — About 300 reconstruction and development projects aimed at bringing water to deprived communities in SA were being hampered by the persistent drought, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday.

“With all the political will in the world, without sufficient water we cannot provide drinking water to all our people, we cannot expand our industrial sector, we cannot, ultimately, expand our economy.”

The focus, Asmal said, was therefore moving to water conservation.

“It is crucial to our future. We have to develop an awareness within our whole population of the fact that water is a scarce resource with a real value.”

Before signing a conservation, environment and water agreement with US Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt in Pretoria, Asmal said sustainable development was the only way to secure a decent quality of life for present and future generations.

“It is in the light of this that we are seeking co-operation with the government and the people of the US.”

Babbitt said there was still a great deal of scepticism at the idea of sustainable development. Many people believed that environmental protection and management was somehow opposed to economic development.

He said the two countries should be pioneers in creating strong economic growth within the boundaries of protected resources.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa and US Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown signed a statement of intent on tourism.

The SA-US binational commission committee on nature conservation proposed that the US assist SA with the conservation of elephants.

Committee chairman Marshall Jones said elephants were a unique part of African heritage, but could cause problems.

The commission committee also proposed a trans-frontier national park be built. “This would be the first in the world, where the indigenous population would be allowed to stay,” Jones said. — Sapa.

SAA
SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

West Cape water stores threatened

CAPE TOWN — The Western Cape's predicted 1998 population of 3-million or more will outgrow present water storage facilities unless plans to increase them are implemented soon, says a water affairs brochure which is being distributed in Cape Town.

Also increasing was the agricultural water demand to meet food requirements, it said.

The region's requirements were increasing by about 15-million cubic metres annually — 11-million for urban requirements and 4-million for agricultural purposes — said one of the engineers involved in the study, Peter Little.

The programme proposed new dams, modifications to existing dams and a water saving drive.

A series of public meetings would be held to involve the community in finding solutions.

The first was scheduled for Paarl yesterday. **BD 5/12/95**

It said the first proposal was a scheme to build a R300m dam on the Berg River in the La Motte state forest near Franschoek. This would store winter rains and reduce the flow of the river in that period, but increase the water supply in the summer.

As a result the agricultural demand on the Theewaterskloof dam near Villiersdorp and the Vogelvlie dam near Tulbagh would be reduced. — Sapa.

Askari beate frenzy — wi

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — A Vlakplaas askari suspected of having sold his firearm in a shebeen had been beaten up by security policemen in an assault which resembled "a horrible frenzy, a shark feeding", the Transvaal Supreme Court was told yesterday.

The State alleges that former Vlakplaas C10 unit commander Col Eugene de Kock and about 10 other C10 members had murdered the askari Bruce Nthehelang in June or July 1989 in the canteen on Vlakplaas.

Former MK operative Hugh Lugg — a member of the so-called ANC Broederstroom cell — who became an askari based at Vlakplaas in 1989 after reporting three other members of the cell to the police, told the court he had been present at the assault.

Lugg was flown to SA from Britain to testify against De Kock yesterday.

Several C10 members had been involved in the attack on Nthehelang, Lugg said.

"I was very upset at the time, and was trying to imagine that I was not there. The policemen were

not acting for my own

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Education award winners

Business Day Reporter

DEPUTY President Thabo Mbeki, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu and key members of SA's nine provincial administrations have announced the names of the winners of the Education Africa, Presidential and Premier Education Awards.

The awards, initiated by Education Africa, show government's acknowledgment of the invaluable role in education played by non-governmental organisations and structures.

"These awards are a fitting tribute and recognition to the unsung heroes and heroines who have continuously contributed to the development of our education and training system during the most difficult times," Bengu said at an awards ceremony at Gallagher Estate, Midrand, at the weekend.

The ceremony was attended by more than 1 200 people, including cabinet ministers, provincial premiers, ambassadors and members of the business community.

Winners of the Presidential Awards were: Early childhood development

BD 5/12/95 category, the Ntataise Trust; Basic education and training (adults and youth), Project Literacy; Provision of education for people with special needs, the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Winners of the Business in Education Awards: Businesses with up to 20 staff members category, Cape Town-based Princeton Computing; Businesses with up to 500 staff members, Potchefstroom-based Boskop Training Group; Businesses with more than 500 staff members, Woolworths.

Winners in both these categories were nominated by President Nelson Mandela.

Winners of the premier awards were: Eastern Cape, the Sakhisizwe Inset Trust; Free State, the Tshepang Trust; Gauteng, the Molteno Project; KwaZulu-Natal, the Valley Trust; Mpumalanga, the Molteno Project; Northern Cape, the Hantam Community Education Trust; Northern Province, the Primary Mathematics Project; North-West, Leon Kotze; and Western Cape, the Youth Project for the Centre of Conflict Resolution.

Mpumalanga province gets 24 new boreholes

~~3~~ (3) BD 5/12/95
Business Day Reporter

TWENTY-FOUR new boreholes were handed over to the people of Mpumalanga yesterday at a ceremony at the Tonga showground in Nelspruit.

The boreholes project was a joint venture between the Mpumalanga government and the Mpumalanga-based Ingwe Coal Corporation, the world's third largest coal producer.

"As a business, we at Ingwe have accepted our responsibility as a key role player in assisting the province realise its reconstruction and development programme objectives," said Ingwe MD Dave Murray.

"Water is the absolute key to development and often survival. This dynamic initiative sets the pace for other private sector organisations to become involved in reconstruction and development of the province," Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa said.

Ingwe, in conjunction with Phosa and the Gencor Development Trust, had also implemented other community related projects in the province.

These included small business development, job creation, the Mpumalanga school-building initiative, small scale farming and community food plots, housing and a mobile careers centre for schools in remote areas.

Mixed reaction to govt move on farming loans

(3) BD 5/12/95
Louise Cook

GOVERNMENT's move to raise interest rates 6% on certain Agricultural Credit Board loans received a mixed reception from agricultural unions, ranging from acceptance to calls for an urgent review of the Agricultural Credit Act.

Agriculture Deputy Minister Thoko Didiza announced at the weekend the interest rate on all short-term loans would be raised to 14%, and farmers still in arrears with repayments on medium- and long-term loans by April, would be liable for an interest rate hike to 14% from the current 8%.

Beginner farmers accessing the state's R150m production-loan scheme set up in August would be liable for the higher rate. Under the scheme loans of up to R50 000 could be granted to beginner farmers, with a repayment period of two years.

The National African Farmers' Union (Nafu), representing 700 000 black farmers, said the rate was raised at a time when beginner farmers were eligible to benefit from state help.

"There should have been affirmative action for a fixed period to give

African farmers similar benefits to those given to white farmers since the inception of the Agricultural Credit Act 29 years ago."

Nafu called on government to review the Act urgently as there were still many assistance schemes which black farmers were unable to access.

The Northern Cape Agricultural Union, which represents 5 000 farmers, described the hike on medium- and long-term loans as reasonable.

Union GM Johan van Rensburg said the move was in line with normal business practice. Farmers in arrears with repayments should try to catch up to avoid the increase.

But Northwest Agricultural Union GM Rudi Malan said the "dramatic increase" was disappointing and would ruin those commercial farmers in financial difficulties.

Malan said the union would talk to the agriculture department to dissuade it from increasing the rates.

Banks welcomed government's move, saying that without market-related rates there was no incentive to repay loans.

Comment: Page 16

Agricultural union wants policy body

(3) BDE/12/95
PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union said yesterday it was disappointed that President Nelson Mandela's had not yet set up a Cabinet committee to examine its objections to agricultural policies.

The union said that during talks with organised agriculture on August 29, Mandela undertook to appoint a committee consisting of five ministries to investigate the union's ob-

jections to policy aspects undermining business confidence in commercial agriculture.

"They (farmers) experience persistent reluctance on the part of the government of national unity to keep its promises as a conscious effort to further destabilise commercial agriculture," the union said. It was therefore left with no choice but to plan "alternative actions". — Sapa.

REPORT

Agricultural tax 'unlikely to work'

Adrienne Giffone

3
6/12/95
THE Katz report did not recommend a national tax on agricultural land in the short to medium term as it would not yield significant net revenue. There was also likely to be a low level of compliance with the tax by farmers.

The report said the tax would place a heavy burden on agriculture and on its potential contribution to reconstruction and development in SA, unless special compensating measures accompanied the tax.

There was also evidence that the social costs of a national land tax would be high in SA, as this would result in poor subsistence farmers being subject to the same tax as commercial farmers.

But the land tax subcommittee said evidence suggested that a rural land tax — excluding agricultural land — levied at local government level might have merit. The proper roles of national and provincial governments regarding this tax would also have to be determined.

"A local level rural land tax will improve equity.... If levied at local government level, it will give greater fiscal autonomy to rural local authorities," the report said.

Decision on Sasol subsidy will be 'far-reaching'

CT 6/12/95

THE decision by the cabinet today on whether to continue the subsidy to Sasol would have far-reaching consequences for the liquid fuels industry in South Africa, the SA Petroleum Industry Association (Sapia) said yesterday.

Sapia director Mr Colin McClelland said the decision would also have far-reaching consequences for future local and foreign investment in the country.

Sasol was highly profitable without any subsidy and was making profits of more than twice the combined profits of the conventional crude oil refining and marketing companies in the country, he said.

"Removing the subsidy should have no effect on Sasol other than to reduce overall profits enjoyed by shareholders."

He said the cabinet's decision on the issue could not be postponed any longer. If the government decided to continue with

the subsidy, it would have to ask itself why.

Despite assurances of open-handed consultation between the government and all parties concerned it had become apparent Sasol had been intensively consulted and Sapia's members largely ignored, Mr McClelland said.

It appeared the cabinet would take a decision within the framework of the Arthur Andersen report, which Sapia had criticised as highly flawed, he said.

Mr McClelland said it appeared the government was determined to use this framework to continue an economically unjustified subsidisation of a private company.

A decision favouring the continued subsidisation of Sasol would be a severe blow for the prospects of deregulation and cheaper fuel in SA, which could benefit the whole economy, he said. — Sapa

Natal university atones for racism

CT 6/12/95

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN: The principal of the University of Natal, Professor Brenda Gourlay, last night offered an unqualified public apology to those past students who had been hurt by the institution practising discrimination.

Two thousand former students, staff, and their families attended a special "Reconciliation Graduation" ceremony for graduates of the Medical School, which had been reserved for blacks, coloureds and Indians for decades.

Speaking at the ceremony, Prof Gourlay said the university had owed the students an apology for a very long time. Many graduates had lost contact with the university for many reasons, but she wanted them to know that the process of transformation was well under way.

The inscription on the scrolls presented to the graduates recorded that the university acknowledged the past injustices of apartheid, both within the university and in the broader society.

Move to speed farming policy

PRETORIA: President Nelson Mandela had ordered his director-general Professor Jakes Gerwel to arrange the formation of a ministers' committee to review the agricultural policy changes now under debate, the President's office said yesterday.

Responding to criticism from the SA Agricultural Union over the delay of over three months in setting up the committee, the President's office said Mr Mandela had also been concerned to learn it had not yet been established.

"President Mandela appreciates the important role the farming community is playing in South Africa ... It has been agreed Professor Gerwel will assist the minister (of agriculture Dr Kraai van Niek-erk) in convening the meeting early in 1996."

CT 6/12/95 (3)

Farmers fail to obtain court interdict against Hanekom

(3) (S) Louise Cook

BD 7/12/95

THE Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday refused to grant an urgent application to 15 farmers in a case viewed as a test for government's land reform policies. Judge C Botha ruled that the case — in which the applicants asked the court to reject a decision by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom not to buy their land — be postponed to January 15.

The judge said due to the "extent and importance" of the matters before him, it would not be in the interest of any of the parties to grant the urgent interdict.

The farmers, from Coligny in the Northwest Province, brought the application in October, saying that respondents Hanekom, Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe and the Land Board chairman had employed delaying tactics in buying their farms which had threatened their fair and reasonable compensation. Documents before the court contained a letter from land affairs saying the department was not "in a position" to buy the land and that the claim would be dealt with in terms of the Act on the Restitution of Land Rights.

The applicants alleged that Hanekom had undertaken at a meeting on July 5 this year to expropriate the farms. Hanekom allegedly told the farmers he viewed the matter as a priority. The applicants said they had participated in talks on the sale of the farms as a "bona fide attempt to help the minister".

There had been acknowledgement between themselves and the land claimants about each others' rights and the claimants had expected to move back onto the farms by August. The only outstanding issue had been compensation, they told the court.

But Hanekom said he had asked the land affairs department in November to notify the farmers that no bid would be made. Counsel for the respondents denied that any offer to buy the farms was made.

TESTING THE WATER: Provincial Housing Minister Gerald Morkel and chairman of the West Coast Regional Services Council, Wynand Malan, sample freshly purified sea water, desalinated and made drinkable by an experimental desalination plant in Strandfontein.



SA's first desalination plant established on the West Coast

DENNIS CAVERNELIS
Staff Reporter

THE sleepy West Coast town of Strandfontein, north of Doring Bay, has become home to South Africa's first desalination processing unit, which makes sea water safe for drinking at an affordable price.

The "Watermaster", an experimental desalination processing unit on Strandfontein beach, was switched on this week by provincial Housing Minister Gerald Morkel.

Chairman of the West Coast Regional Services Council, Wynand Malan, said: "This is the first desalination process where we purify sea water and make it drinkable."

A similar process is used in

Bitterfontein, where groundwater is purified for domestic use.

More than R400 000 was pumped into the project for research and of that money, R230 000 was used to build the processing unit.

Fresh water is in short supply in Strandfontein, which has about 1 000 residents. The population increases in the holiday season when some 4 000 visitors flock to the town.

Dr Malan said the automated processor pumped in 6 000 litres of water an hour, through pipework laid in the sea, which was filtered and purified in the processor, stored in a tank and then pumped for distribution.

Water from the new processor cost 74 cents a kilolitre, including

distribution costs, and met SABS standards, he said.

Engineer William Graham headed the team responsible for conceiving and building the processor over the past two years.

He said it was a solution for towns of about 6 000 people which had access to sea water, or groundwater with a high salt content.

The processor could be made bigger or smaller, for example, for use on a farm, he said.

The major cost of using the processor inland would be laying pipes for distribution, said Mr Graham.

Mr Morkel, after tasting the water, said: "Whisky drinkers won't be able to tell the difference."

(3) ARG 8/12/95

in BRIEF

Food supply threatened by erosion - environment report

PRETORIA. — Large tracts of land in South Africa were in such a poor state that the nation's food security was threatened, according to a report. (3) ARG 9/12/95

The Environmental Scientific Association (Esa) compiled the report after a two-year study.

The report said 40 percent of cultivated land in South Africa showed signs of moderate to severe erosion.

"About 17 000 hectares of agricultural land is lost to development and about the same is afforested annually," said the report.

"Bush encroachment and alien invader plants threaten 37 million hectares of natural veld. These factors threaten the food security of South Africa."

Soil acidification had also increased because of the use of fertilisers. — Reuter.

Further impetus to settle SA farmers in neighbouring states

Star 12/12/95 (25) (3)
By **MONDLI MAKHANYA**
Political Reporter

South African farmers' proposed foray into southern African states will be taken a step further today when President Nelson Mandela, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Nierkerk and Freedom Front leader Gen Constand Viljoen meet to discuss the project.

The three will put finishing touches to an agreement that Mandela will co-sign with Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano early next year. The agreement will outline the conditions under which South African farmers will operate in Mozambique.

Viljoen is the key initiator of the programme, which has already seen some local farmers head north to exploit vast arable land that has been lying fallow for

years as a result of civil wars and economic stagnation.

Negotiations have also been under way to secure funding from international agencies involved in giving aid and restructuring advice to African states.

In addition to boosting these countries' food supply, the farming projects will involve upliftment and training of locals in farming methods. International funding will also make it less costly for the farmers to trek north and establish new enterprises there.

"To travel to virgin land and start a farming business will be a very big burden," said Viljoen.

An Agriculture Ministry spokesman said the number of farmers to take part in the project would become clearer once agreements had been signed and funding arrangements were known.

Land Court still needs a woman

Remetari 12/12/95

(3) (~~277~~ 362)

By Mzimasi Ngudle

THE Land Claims Court, which was supposed to be up and running by now, will probably start functioning in March next year, court president Mr Justice Fikile Bam said yesterday.

By that time the period within which people can lodge their claims will be just over two years. The three-year prescription period for land claims extends from May this year to May 1998.

One hiccup which Bam said has still to be overcome is the appointment of a female judge - an affirmative action appointee reportedly insisted upon by President Nelson Mandela.

Other judges are former chairman of the National Peace Secretariat Dr Antonie Gildenhuys and human rights lawyers Mr Bakone Moloto and Mr Alan Dodson.

Bam said identifying the seat of the court was delayed by the failure to follow procedural requirements like tenders. "They just wanted a shortcut and the whole process had to start afresh," he said.

Meanwhile, the director of the National Land Claims Commission, Mr Dan van

der Westhuizen, said about 5 300 claims have been lodged so far. Of these 60 per cent were in respect of land in urban areas and the rest in rural areas.

Van der Westhuizen said that while the number of claims pouring into the national office had slowed, regional offices reported an increase in claims, especially after this year's conference on land policy.

Western Cape regional commissioner Mr Wallace Mgoqi said claims have increased since the conference.

Eastern Cape regional commissioner Dr Peter Mayende said more claims were received as people become more and more aware of the process.

Ms Emma Mashinini, a regional commissioner for land claims from Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northern Province and Northwest, said her office had received well over 2 000 claims.

She said urban claims have outnumbered rural claims as more people became aware of land restitution.

KwaZulu-Natal regional land claims officer said awareness programmes on Radio Zulu and the press have led to an increase in the number of claims.

Land degradation poses serious threat, report says

(3) Star 13/12/95

Scientists warn of serious loss of agricultural land that could hinder the RDP and affect SA's food security

By ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

More than a third of the country's agricultural land has been lost in the past 40 years to urban development, forestry and bad farming practices, a new study has found.

A report on land degradation, by the Environmental Scientific Association (ESA), found that bush encroachment and alien plants were destroying more than 37-million ha of natural veld, while 17 000ha of agricultural land is lost every year to urban development and the same area to afforestation.

The report warns that the loss of agricultural land poses a serious threat to the RDP and future food security.

The escalation of the problem of bush encroachment can be gauged from a similar study in 1956, which found that between 7 and 8 million hectares of natural veld had been threatened at that stage. Little had been done in the intervening 40 years to address problems of bush encroachment, a result of poor farming practices such as overgrazing and poor fire control regimes.

Other key problems identified by the ESA report, which has been handed to the Department of Agriculture, were:

■ Soil was being lost up to 123 times faster than new soil was being formed.

■ Acidification, as a result of in-

tensive cultivation, injudicious use of fertilisers and inadequate liming, was the most serious problem in crop production areas.

■ Loss of biodiversity from habitat destruction due to human activities was widespread, and was hampered by a shortage of scientifically verifiable information.

The report said: "Land degradation is an extremely serious problem that threatens the future of South Africa. Apart from its insidious long-term effects, it can severely hinder the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, with grave economic consequences for the country.

"These factors put South Africa's food security at risk, as the availability of high-potential land declines while population figures increase," the report said.

It attributed the lack of progress on addressing land degradation issues to the absence of a national conservation/land-use policy, the general lack of a conservation ethic, and insufficient funds and personnel.

"At present, more than 150 acts of Parliament relate to the environment in South Africa, indicating clearly the disparate, fragmented and overlapping nature of conservation legislation," the report said. This made it very difficult to prioritise problems or co-ordinate efforts, and it had led to enforcement being haphazard.

"Lack of knowledge and plan-

ning prior to cultivation has often led to incorrect land use. Human pressure compounds the problem, forcing cultivation on to marginal soils, which leads to further habitat destruction," it said.


The lack of funding and personnel had also resulted in a situation where reliable information was difficult to obtain.

The report recommended that a coherent, national policy on resource conservation be formulated as a matter of urgency and that a single statutory organisation similar to the Environmental Protection Agency in the US be established to plan, manage and sponsor conservation in SA.

"Such an agency can include government departments such as environment affairs, agriculture, water affairs and agencies such as the National Parks Board. Conservation, research, extension, education and law enforcement could then be accomplished in an efficient, multidisciplinary way by this single organisation," the report concluded.

■ ESA, a non-profit association of scientists acting in their personal capacity, was created in 1993. The report's findings were based on a national audit of research undertaken on the physical, chemical, biological, socio-economic and legal aspects of land degradation. It includes a bibliography of all research, and names and addresses of researchers. Inquiries to Georg Schutte at (012) 319-7551 or Greg Tosen at (011) 629-5061.

Help for into-Africa farmers

3 
The South African Government yesterday pledged to help white farmers wishing to settle in neighbouring African countries set up a business plan to protect their interests.

President Nelson Mandela, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk and Freedom Front leader Constand Viljoen met at the Union Buildings to discuss the difficulties experienced by farmers who had already moved to African countries, such as the Congo.

A plan on how to deal with the problems is to be discussed today at a workshop including the newly

Star 13/12/95
formed South African Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa (Sacada), said Van Niekerk.

"Farmers who do it on their own, experience tremendous difficulties. There is nobody to assist them in getting things in place," Van Niekerk told reporters after yesterday's meeting.

"The (SA) Government must get involved to ensure proper backing. Any development beyond the borders has to be well planned and it takes time," he added.

Sacada was created last month by private-sector

and commercial farmer unions to oversee cross-border farming activities.

The body elected Transvaal Agricultural Union President Dries Bruwer to head the organisation.

Viljoen said yesterday state-to-state protection of South African farmers would be implemented.

This is "something that is impossible for an individual farmer to achieve", he said.

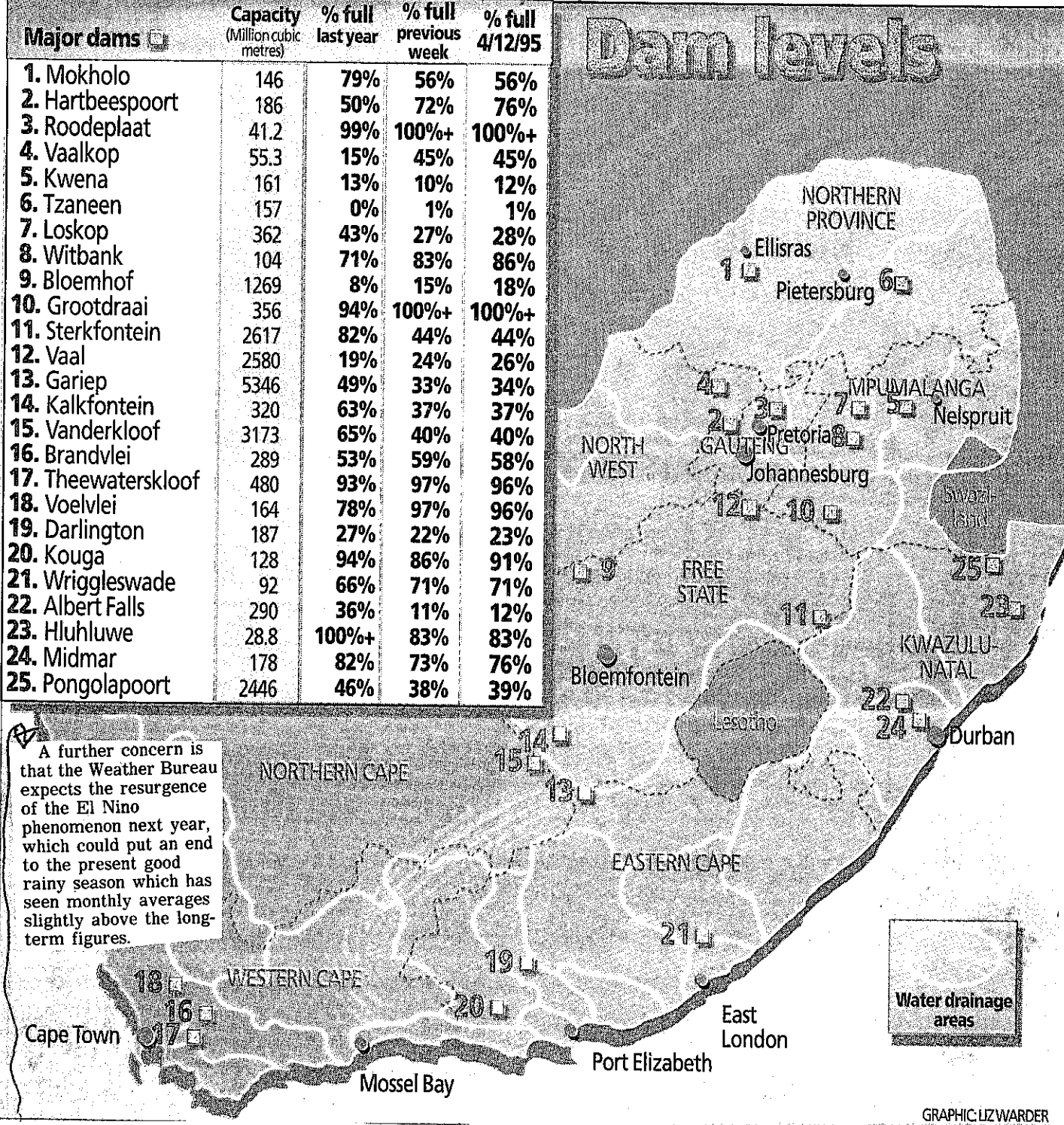
Mandela pledged his support for South African farming initiatives across the country's borders to develop agriculture in those countries. - Reuters.

Good rains, but water still a worry as dams 30% full

ARG 13/12/95 (3)

Major dams	Capacity (Million cubic metres)	% full last year	% full previous week	% full 4/12/95
1. Mokholo	146	79%	56%	56%
2. Hartbeespoort	186	50%	72%	76%
3. Roodeplaat	41.2	99%	100%+	100%+
4. Vaalkop	55.3	15%	45%	45%
5. Kwena	161	13%	10%	12%
6. Tzaneen	157	0%	1%	1%
7. Loskop	362	43%	27%	28%
8. Witbank	104	71%	83%	86%
9. Bloemhof	1269	8%	15%	18%
10. Grootdraai	356	94%	100%+	100%+
11. Sterkfontein	2617	82%	44%	44%
12. Vaal	2580	19%	24%	26%
13. Gariep	5346	49%	33%	34%
14. Kalkfontein	320	63%	37%	37%
15. Vanderkloof	3173	65%	40%	40%
16. Brandvlei	289	53%	59%	58%
17. Theewaterskloof	480	93%	97%	96%
18. Voelvlei	164	78%	97%	96%
19. Darlington	187	27%	22%	23%
20. Kouga	128	94%	86%	91%
21. Wriggleswade	92	66%	71%	71%
22. Albert Falls	290	36%	11%	12%
23. Hluhluwe	28.8	100%+	83%	83%
24. Midmar	178	82%	73%	76%
25. Pongolapoort	2446	46%	38%	39%

Dam levels



A further concern is that the Weather Bureau expects the resurgence of the El Nino phenomenon next year, which could put an end to the present good rainy season which has seen monthly averages slightly above the long-term figures.

Water drainage areas

GRAPHIC: LIZ WARDER

Reservoirs in Mpumalanga are 27 percent full (34 percent this time last year), North West dams are up at 45 percent full compared with 44 percent last year and Natal reservoirs are only 41 percent, which is well down from the recorded 51 percent at the same time in 1994.

The Vaal River system, which serves Gauteng, parts of the Free State and Mpumalanga, is 35 percent full (Vaal Dam is up to the 26 percent mark), which is still well below last year's 45 percent at the start of December. The Upper Orange River scheme is 36 percent full, considerably below the 55 percent recorded at the same time last year.

However, the good news is that Western Cape dams are up slightly at 75 percent full (compared with 71 percent last year). Eastern Cape dams are down at 56 percent (58 percent last year).

THE sustained rain in the interior over the past few weeks has been welcome, but offers little joy to up-country dam watchers. In spite of the widespread falls, the country's 139 main reservoirs are still only 30 percent full, compared with 51 percent at the same time last year, according to Water Affairs Department records.

Huge fines for breaking water curbs

Jan 14/12/95 (3) ~~(10)~~

Inspectors will be sent out to make spot checks on consumers – imposing penalties of up to R1 000

By ANNA COX AND SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Johannesburg consumers who break water restrictions face penalties of up to R1 000 from today. New by-laws were promulgated in the Government Gazette yesterday allowing for a new fining system to be implemented.

The Johannesburg administration's director of water and gas, George Keay, said inspectors would make spot checks and fines of R750 would be imposed on first offenders.

Fines of up to R1 000 could be imposed on second or subsequent offenders, he said.

The fines have nothing to do with water quotas, he said, but were only for breaking restrictions on watering gardens, washing cars and filling swimming pools.

Greater Johannesburg water consumers – both residential and industrial – reached their target of 20% saving for the first time during November since the imposition of penalties.

This was largely due to the good rain during November, which meant domestic users were

able to save on watering their gardens.

Statistics released by Rand Water show that penalties payable by the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council for November will only be R33 630 compared to R4.2-million in penalties paid in October.

In August, penalties amounted to R2-million and in September to R3.8-million.

The cost of the penalties has for the past few months been passed on to consumers by an individual quota system and additional charges for exceeding individual quotas.

Consumers can expect fines of up to R750 from January 1.

Householders are only permitted to water gardens on alternate weekdays between 5pm and 7pm.

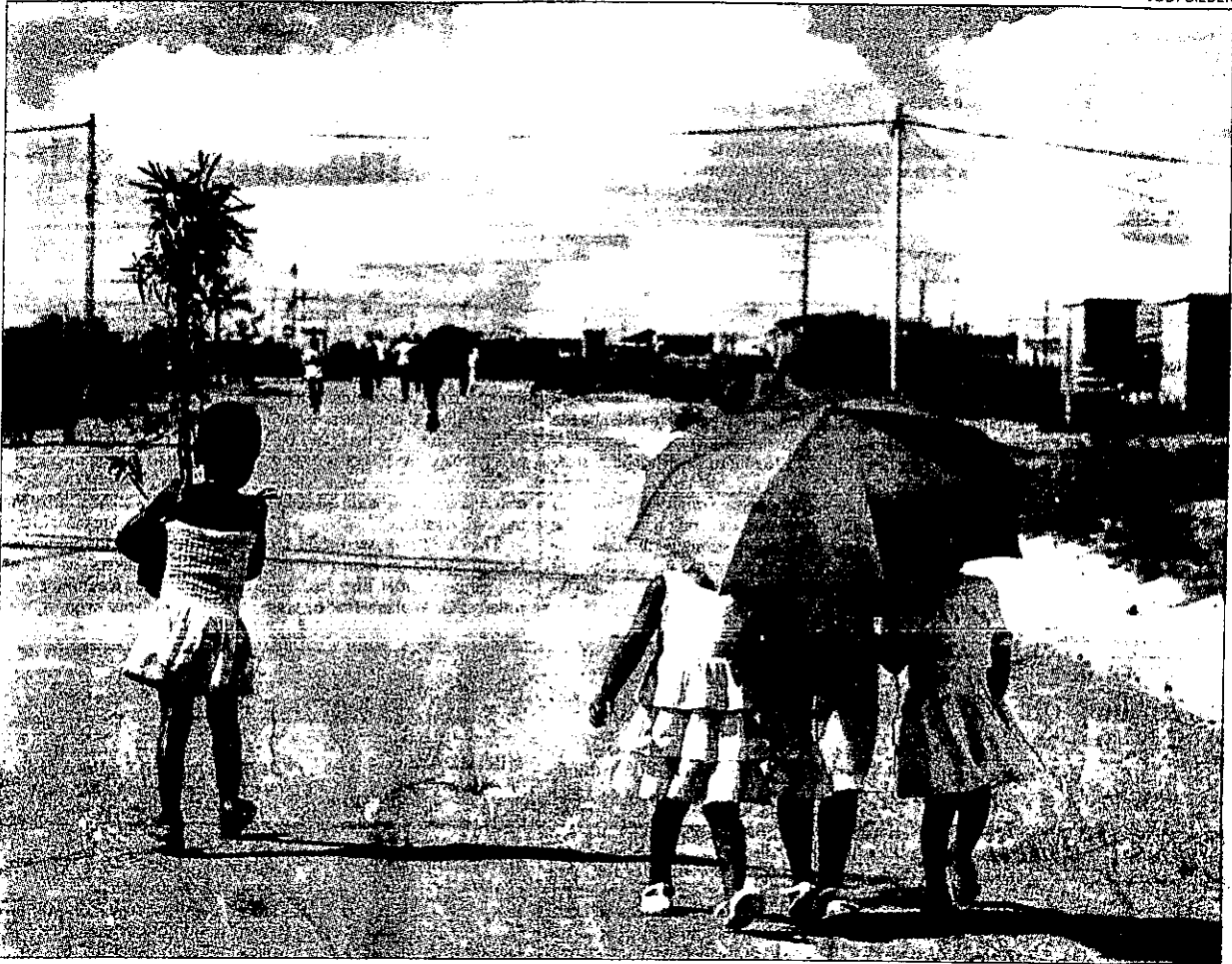
It works out at even numbers Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays; odd numbers Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Sprinklers and hosepipes for washing cars are prohibited.

Swimming pools may not be emptied without council permission and the filling of pools is prohibited except for the replacement of water through evaporation.

MEANWHILE THE UMBRELLA GIVES MORE SHADE

JODI BIBBER



Up and down ... children parade in the streets of Diepsloot, during the tree planting ceremony attended by Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale and Keith Kirsten of Trees for Africa. The residents of Diepsloot informal settlement received a surprise Christmas gift of 1 000 trees from Keith Kirsten. Addressing jubilant residents in the blazing sun yesterday, Premier Sexwale said the tree-planting ceremony underpinned a much bigger objective – improving the quality of life of all residents of the province.

10 WAYS TO SAVE WATER

1. Take a shower of 4 or 5 minutes. The average shower head delivers 26 to 30 litres a minute. Fit a flow control regulator to reduce this.
2. Take a smaller bath. Full baths consume 120-150 litres of water.
3. Think before you flush. Nearly 9 litres of water goes down each time.
4. Adapt your toilet to allow

- manual control over how much water is used at each flush.
5. Reduce temperature on geyser thermostat.
6. Divert tap water not yet hot into a bucket for use elsewhere.
7. Don't leave taps running.
8. Use bathwater in the garden.
9. Repair leaks in taps and pipes.
10. Fit as many household taps as possible with flow regulators.

SA farmers' plans for Ugandan land hit snags

By JOE KHAMISI

Nairobi - Plans by South African farmers to acquire large tracts of agricultural land in Uganda appear to have been thwarted - at least for the time being.

The plans came a cropper following the promulgation in October of the country's constitution, which bars ownership of land by foreigners.

Loopholes - including marriages that previously permitted foreigners to own land - were also closed.

A disappointed President Yoweri Museveni, who favours the

idea of foreign investment in agriculture, is reportedly campaigning for the amendment of the constitution's article 237 to allow for South Africans' future involvement in Uganda.

General election

But amendments can now be made only by a parliament elected under the new constitution.

Such a parliament would be in place after the general elections scheduled for mid-1996.

Museveni, who has ruled Uganda since 1986, faces only a nominal challenge from the joint opposition candidate, Paul Se-

mogerere.

The constitutional restrictions have reportedly incensed the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), which has been wooing South African investment since 1994.

In August, a group of 23 farmers from the Transvaal Agricultural Union travelled to Uganda at the UIA's invitation in search of settlement land.

The delegation was led by Hans Herbst, a leading Brahman cattle farmer from Roedlan, near Naboomspruit.

They wanted large tracts of land for dairy farming, game

ranching and traditional crops.

The South Africans favoured either joint ventures with local farmers, or long-term lease arrangements for more than 45 years with automatic renewal.

But the new constitutional provision sets tough conditions even for lease approvals.

Moreover, Uganda landholders are said to be reluctant to lease out for more than five years.

The size of requested land is also a matter of disagreement.

The South Africans wanted tracts of around 90sq km while Ugandans were willing to part

with only 1sq km per farmer.

Media reports say the Ugandan Export Promotion Council has presented alternative proposals to the South Africa farmers for consideration.

Expertise

The proposals involve the government providing for land with the South Africans injecting capital and expertise.

The arrangement, known as the Outgrower Scheme, has worked well in the tobacco and cotton subsectors.

The South Africans are said to disagree with this idea be-

cause they would not have complete control over the crops, especially in the face of strong farmers' co-operatives.

Such an arrangement would also not justify the heavy-equipment investment the South Africans would need.

In their original request, the South Africans indicated they wanted to settle in Uganda in small groups in order to maintain their culture and language.

But some members of the Constituent Assembly felt that such an arrangement would undermine small-scale farmers and threaten the country's secu-

rity.

In a country where issues of land usually generate emotional debate, any attempt to liberalise land ownership will most likely face stiff opposition.

The majority of the 19 million Ugandans are poor, eking their living from small-scale holdings.

Although the entry of South Africans will provide jobs, their very affluent presence could cause tension among local communities, some Ugandans fear.

Agriculture is the dominant sector in the Ugandan economy, accounting for more than half (54%) of the country's gross

domestic product. It constitutes 90% of total commodity exports and about 80% of the national employment.

South Africa is one of the countries Kampala is targeting for increased trade and investment.

Commitment

The UIA says representatives of about 35 South African companies have visited Uganda this year alone. But Ugandan officials are not saying whether the trips have yielded any serious commitments. - Independent Foreign Service

Star 16/12/95 (3)

Grant established to assist land reform beneficiaries

BD 18/12/95

Louise Cook

THE first application under government's new settlement planning grant to help land reform beneficiaries to employ professional planners will begin this week, the land affairs department says.

Land Affairs director Nico van Rensburg said the amount available for the grants was not specified but the money would come from the land reform budget of R200m.

"So far one application has been received from 40 farmers at Villiersdorp in the Western Cape.

"They have enlisted the help of the Rural Foundation to acquire state land and have applied for a grant of R54 000 to turn the project into a viable undertaking."

He said another 70 applications for settlement aid, submitted under the previous govern-

ment, were likely to qualify for government's planning grants.

Next year the number of applications for the grants were expected to rocket, he said.

"The move is aimed at avoiding poverty traps from people not being able to develop redistributed land into financially viable units."

Initially, during the first phase of development, the size of the grant was 2% of the total project cost. Thereafter it went up to 4%, he said.

A land affairs department grants and services document released last week stated that the grant enabled prospective and actual beneficiaries of land reform to appoint planners and professionals from private firms, government and non-governmental organisations for legal and financial planning and planning land use and infrastructure, as well as help

with land purchase negotiations.

"The objective of the grant is to assist poor communities to plan for their settlement needs in terms of acquisition, use and development of the land and the mobilisation of resources required to do this."

The document said the grant could finance planning of preliminary and detailed settlement. Beneficiaries could also use the grant to appoint land valuers from a panel of government accredited valuers.

The grant was one of three new schemes of the land affairs department to kick-start land reform. A settlement grant of R15 000 a household and a district planning scheme aimed at provinces and local authorities wanting to embark on land development would come into full operation next year, Van Rensburg said.

Press Council may be replaced

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The Conference of Editors hoped to meet the Black Editors' Forum in early February to get unification talks off the ground, conference chairman John Patten said at the weekend.

He said little progress had been made so far to create a single body for editors. Exploratory talks between the two bodies "blew up" following the decision by Sunday Times editor Ken Owen and Weekly Mail and Guardian editor Anton Harber to quit the conference. They were the body's representatives in the exploratory talks, Patten said.

Efforts to unify the two bodies could run into problems due to the

fact that the forum had a "very big agenda on transformation", he said. BD 18/12/95

Despite their differences, the conference and forum have agreed to work together — along with the Newspaper Press Union, the Media Workers Association of SA and the SA Union of Journalists — to establish an independent mechanism to deal with public complaints against press reports. The new body would replace the press council.

Patten said the debate on a replacement to the council had "virtually restarted" at the request of the forum. The forum had been brought into negotiations over the issue only recently, and said it still needed to formulate a position.

Agribank to stop tool confiscation

Bonile Ngqiyaza

THE Agribank has put a moratorium on the confiscation of farming implements in Northwest Province following a meeting last week between the province's agriculture and environment MEC Johannes Tselapedi, Agribank and representatives of Ditsobohla farmers.

Agriculture department spokesman Lana Quinn said drought conditions in the past three years had made it difficult for some emerging farmers to repay their debts, causing the bank to foreclose on their loans and to repossess farming implements.

At the meeting Tselapedi had expressed concern at the problems experienced by black farmers during the current ploughing season.

It was agreed that Agribank would cease its "call-up activities" from today until January 31 when the Agribank board would hold its next meeting.

Tselapedi would discuss the issue with them, with a view to extending the moratorium to February 29 next year.

The agreement should not be seen to exempt farmers from honouring their obligations with the bank.

Joburg-Pretoria speeding fines at R2m

Bonile Ngqiyaza

ABOUT 9 000 speeding offences are committed by motorists on the freeway from Johannesburg to Pretoria each month, Midrand Traffic Department superintendent Willie van Rooyen said at the weekend.

The Midrand Traffic Department monitors the N1 section of the freeway, which stretches

between the Buccleuch area and Pretoria.

Van Rooyen would not say whether the freeway was the most dangerous in the country. But the Sandton Traffic Department, which monitors the M1 as far as Corlett Drive, has reported collected fines worth more than R2m from drivers transgressing traffic rules on the N1, N3 and the M1 in the last six months.

AECI fire devastates crops

(10) (13) (3)

Some farmers face bleak future after clouds of dense, burning sulphur billow over their land

SAPA
Cape Town

Farmers in the Somerset West-Stellenbosch area face large financial losses after a cloud of sulphur from a fire at African Explosives and Chemical Industries burnt their crops.

The blaze at AECI's storage dump in Somerset West dispersed thick clouds of acrid sulphur over the farming area, destroying vegetable and fruit crops.

When mixed with the rain that followed the fire, the sulphur changed to form sulphurous acid that burnt the leaves and fruit of most trees and ruined vegetable crops in the area.

Rust-en-Vrede owner Brian

Pickering said yesterday he could not believe what he saw - all his lettuces, spring onions and cocktail tomatoes were burnt.

"Everything was just wiped out in a single go. It looks as if somebody threw battery acid over the crop - the leaves are all burnt. I really do not know what to do because, if we don't have a cash flow, then we will go bankrupt and all my cash is tied up in the crop.

"We supply Pick 'n Pay and a number of other stores. I had to telephone them this morning explaining my predicament. This is normally our busiest period and the time of year when we make some money. Now I will have to explain to the workers why I can't

pay them."

Johannes Visser of the farm Voorentoe said 80% of his 35ha salad vegetable crops had been wiped out.

"I am still trying to estimate the cost and am speaking to my lawyers so that the chemical company can take responsibility for these losses.

"The young plans just shrivelled up and died. I am running around not knowing what to do."

Gunter Henke, who farms flowers and vegetables, said his loss was about R100 000.

An AECI head office spokesman said the company was consulting its insurance brokers and would then tell farmers their response.

Star 19/12/95

Asthma deaths postmortem after horror fire

Cape Town - A postmortem would be performed on two brothers who died after the chemical blaze outside Somerset West at the weekend.

Police spokesman Capt Wicus Holtzhausen said the postmortem was planned for yesterday or today, depending on their workload.

Andrew Williams (54) and his brother Ronnie (47) of The Strand were believed to be asthma suffer-

ers. They were on their way to separate weddings in nearby Maassar when they apparently were overcome by sulphur dioxide fumes.

"If the postmortem revealed they had not died of natural causes, it would be up to a magistrate to decide whether anyone could be held responsible," Holtzhausen said.

Cape Town's medical officer of health Dr Michael Popkiss said

stress resulting from the fire could have a more serious long-term effect than the sulphur dioxide.

The trauma of being evacuated from their homes and relocated could be very upsetting to people, Popkiss said.

A spokesman at Somerset West's Hottentots Holland hospital said yesterday that staff had been stretched to the limit treating people suffering from sulphur dioxide inhalation. - Sapa.

N

Farmers face ruin after acid rain from AECI fire destroys crops

BD 19/12/95

CAPE TOWN — Farmers in the Somerset West-Stellenbosch area face large financial losses after a cloud of sulphur from a fire at AECI on Sunday destroyed vegetable and fruit crops.

Sapa reports that with the rain that followed the fire, sulphurous acid was formed, burning the leaves and fruit of most trees and ruining vegetable crops in the area. Two people died and thousands had to flee their homes.

Rust-en-Vrede owner Brian Pickering, who supplies Pick 'n Pay and other stores, said all his lettuce, spring

onions and cocktail tomatoes were burnt. "It looks as if somebody threw battery acid over the crop," he said. "All my cash is tied up in the crop... and this is normally our busiest period."

Farmer Johannes Visser said 80% of his 35ha of vegetable crops was wiped out. "I am still trying to estimate the cost and am speaking to my lawyers so the chemical company can take responsibility for these losses."

Gunter Henke, who farms flowers and vegetables, said his immediate loss was about R100 000. "That was

just what I paid for the plants and seeds which were destroyed by this acid rain."

An AECI spokesman said the company was consulting its insurance brokers about the damage.

Mungo Soggot and Edward West report AECI spokesman Mike Blizzard said the company's farming specialists and assessors would visit affected farmers in the next few days to discuss possible compensation.

Blizzard said the stockpile of 15 000 tons of sulphur — owned by govern-

ment but managed by AECI — had been established 20 years ago. AECI had believed its safety measures were sufficient. But a veld fire on Saturday night, whipped up by a 70km/h wind, had jumped two firebreaks. AECI would negotiate with government about what to do with the sulphur.

Meanwhile, officials from the labour department, responsible for occupational health and safety, said government lacked the staff and know-how to police industry's storage of potentially lethal substances adequately.

Chemicals

Continued from Page 1

BD 19/12/95

such events had taken place. The admission emerged as AECI and representatives of the Maccassar community met yesterday to discuss the fall-out from fire.

Blizzard said that it had been agreed at the meeting that AECI would establish a health office in Maccassar manned by doctors specialising in respiratory ailments, that medical bills resulting from the fire be paid by AECI and that an independent board of inquiry be set up investigate the disaster. Blizzard said AECI managed a similar stockpile at a plant in Natal at its Umbogintwini plant.

An AECI spokesman said it did not have a central inventory of potentially hazardous chemicals, but individual

operating sites did. It would be impractical to have one list of the locations and amount of potentially lethal waste in SA as it was difficult to know where to draw the line. "Just about all chemical substances, no matter how innocuous they may seem, could present a hazard of one kind or another."

AECI said that over the past 18 months it had set up community awareness and emergency response committees at AECI operating sites.

Lukanyo Mnyanda reports a Sasol spokesman said Sasol did not have an open stockpile of sulphur at its Sasolburg chemical operation, and its Natref refinery at Sasolburg, which produced sulphur liquid, had a sophisticated emergency plan. Both Sasol plants in Sasolburg and Secunda had emergency response systems which could warn nearby communities of impending chemical dangers with sirens and radio frequencies.

The department had no records of locations for the storage of hazardous waste and insufficient manpower to police companies. Though new legislation expected next year would increase the companies' responsibilities, they would not be bound to inform government about storage details.

A labour department occupational health and safety spokesman said the new legislation would beef up government's ability to "point fingers" after

Continued on Page 2

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Continued on Page 2

Credit dries up for farmers

3 () BO 21/12/95
PIETERSBURG — Commercial banks and other financial institutions such as co-operatives were apparently no longer willing to extend credit to drought-stricken farmers, Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said yesterday.

Bruwer said farmers, who had now received rain and would soon be able to plant, suddenly found themselves without credit. Without the money the farmers would not be able to make the best of the favourable conditions.

"Had they received financial aid they might have been able to start working off their debts. It is incomprehensible ... farmers and their banks and co-ops have always been partners in the past," he said.

He urged banks and financial institutions not to "turn their backs" on farmers at this stage. — Sapa.

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3 (S) BD 2/1/21/95
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WATER AFFAIRS

Turn off for Lesotho project

(3)
FM 22/12/95

Government looks set to abandon the multi-billion rand Lesotho Highlands Water Project once Phase 2 has been completed. A Water Research Commission report, assessing available surplus water in the Orange River, has found that original assessments grossly overestimated the available resources.

Department of Water Affairs officials say that the last three phases of the Lesotho scheme are likely to be cancelled as a result.

Department of Water Affairs deputy director-general water utilisation Claus Triebel says: "The commission's findings differ from the original estimate — which showed a surplus of 1,1bn cubic metres after completion of the Lesotho project — as it excluded environmental uses, as well as water losses below the Vanderkloof Dam due to evaporation, irrigation, municipal and industrial use."

Triebel says urgent new studies are now being finalised which would involve substantial additional transfers into the Vaal system from the Tugela and Mzimvubu rivers.

He adds that government's contractual water treaty commitment with Lesotho only goes as far as completion of the first phase of the Highlands project.

The 1971 White Paper on the Orange River system — on which the Lesotho project was based — was completed before the droughts of the Eighties and Nineties, which reduced estimates of the system's long-term water potential.

One of the options already being considered is the building of a new dam on the Orange within SA — which would involve about 500 km of aqueducts, canals and tunnels linking the proposed dam, through the Free State into the Vaal system.

Though still incomplete, the Highlands project's R7,5bn Katse Dam and tunnels are now storing water for transfer to the upper Vaal River system in January 1998. Construction tenders for the R4,6bn Mohale Dam will be issued in 1997, for completion by about 2003.

But once complete, the Katse and Mohale dams would only be able to quench Gauteng's growing thirst till about 2005. Within less than 10 years, additional resources would therefore be needed to prevent SA's industrial heartland from running dry. Water Affairs deputy director-general development Paul Roberts says a Vaal plan-

ning study is now prioritising the future development of additional water resources to augment the Orange and Vaal systems. "We we will have to decide before the end of 1997 about the launch of the next initiative," he says.

Roberts says priority water resource de-

velopment — should be completed by the end of 1996," Roberts says.

The Water Research Commission's study of the available long-term water supplies from the Orange and Vaal River systems shows that, with only 6,5bn m³ left exploitable in the Orange River system, there would be a 1,1bn m³ deficit at the river mouth should all five phases of the Lesotho project be developed.

The seriousness of SA's water crisis is underlined by the fact that the 5 346 M m³ capacity Gariep Dam on the Orange was only 35% full on Monday, while the 2 580 M m³ Vaal Dam was at 32% of capacity — 3% up on the previous day. The Vanderkloof Dam was at 34% of its 3 173 M m³ capacity.

And apart from drought-induced water shortages — now partially relieved by recent good rains — Water Affairs has found that it can exploit only about two-thirds of the originally estimated capacity of the Lesotho Highlands project.

Whatever is decided, the country's engineering and construction industries can look forward to multibillion rand contracts coming their way over the next two decades. ■



velopments include:

- Completing Phase 1 of the Lesotho project;
- Building three additional dams in the Tugela system, allowing for the eventual exploitation of about 30 m³/s of water. Initially, 15 m³/s will be delivered by making use of spare capacity of the Drakensberg pump storage scheme into the Sterkfontein Dam;
- A reduction of the Mashai Dam in Lesotho from a planned 4,5bn m³ capacity to about 1bn m³; and
- Developing the large delivery capacity of the Mzimvubu water system in the old Transkei through a series of dams, tunnels and pumping stations to link with the proposed Orange River Dam and into the Vaal system.

"The Mzimvubu, Lesotho and Tugela dams would all serve as storage reservoirs for the Vaal system and be used to top up the Vaal Dam, as is now being done through the 2,5bn m³ capacity Sterkfontein Dam and the Tugela pump storage scheme across the Drakensberg," says Roberts.

He adds that the copious — but expensive — water resources of the Mzimvubu could be delivered into the Vaal system in three possible ways: via the Tugela system, through Lesotho or via the Kraai River into the lower Orange system.

"Final choices will be made as the various engineering and financial feasibility studies — including the Orange River re-

AIR TRAVEL

Wing walking

The US government appears to have moderated the tough stance it adopted when attempting to use economic muscle to force SA to sign a bilateral air agreement earlier this year. The agreement would have given US airlines access to "fifth freedom" and "third country code share" rights.

The fifth freedom clause would give US airlines the right to fly to SA after staging in a third country, where they would pick up SA-bound passengers. The code share right would allow US airlines to fly to European destinations, where SA-bound passengers would be transferred to another carrier for the final leg of their journey.

It would have been lucrative for Northwest Airlines, which needs to fill empty seats with SA-bound passengers on its European flights to Amsterdam. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (with which Northwest is allied) would then fly passengers to Johannesburg International airport on one of its five flights a week to SA.

Clampdown on credit to farmers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ET 27/12/95

PRETORIA: Farmers enter the New Year facing a huge financial crisis as banks, state financial institutions and co-operatives clamp down on extending credit to them.

The government's Agricultural Credit Board (ACB) has virtually doubled its interest rates on old and new loans and banks are taking a hard look at the creditworthiness of farmers who have traditionally obtained huge loans.

The move follows the implementation of the RDP agricultural policy, which stipulates that financial and other services had to concentrate on small and resource-poor farmers.

Already hard-hit by drought, farmers owe a collective R20 billion accumulated over the past 25 years.

Loan clamp bodes ill for cash-strapped farmers

(3) Star 28/12/95

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

Farmers go into the new year facing a huge financial crisis as a result of banks, State financial institutions and co-operatives clamping down on extending credit to them.

The Government's Agricultural Credit Board (ACB) has virtually doubled its interest rates on old and new loans while banks are taking a hard look at the creditworthiness of many commercial farmers who have traditionally obtained huge loans.

The move follows the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) agricultural policy, which stipulates that financial and other services had to concentrate on small and resource-poor farmers.

This has meant that expensive support for farmers by the Land Bank and ACB, which together provide 30% of all agricultural financing, is no longer allowed. ACB interest rates have jumped from 8% to 14%. Other financing comes from commercial banks (30%), co-operatives (25%), private institutions (8%) and other sources (7%).

Already hard-hit by drought, farmers, who owe a collective R20-billion accumulated over the past 25 years, now face a bleak financial future even though good rains have fallen over many areas, giving them the opportunity to begin ploughing sunbaked lands in anticipation of good crops in 1996.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said from his Northern Province farm:

"It is incomprehensible. Farmers and their banks and co-operatives have always been partners in the past."

It had come to his attention that financial institutions were "apparently no longer willing to extend credit", in particular to farmers in drought-prone areas - in reality, most of the Northern Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province and the Free State.

The decision means that it would be difficult for them to obtain credit at co-operatives for the buying of agricultural inputs such as seed and fertiliser, tractors, implements and fuel.

Chiefly a response to RDP demands

It could also have a further impact on the level of unemployment in rural areas as, this year, farm workers have lost their jobs in Northern Province alone due to the drought. There has also been massive unemployment in other provinces, although official figures are not yet to hand, while many farmers have left their properties to search for jobs.

One example of the credit clamp is that tractor sales this year have already dropped by more than 12%, according to latest statistics, and this is put down to drought as well as uncertainty on the farms over whether or not rain would fall, and fears of land restitution claims.

The three biggest commercial banks involved in

the farming sector - Volkskas, First National and Standard - told The Star that as far as they were concerned, stepping up action against uncreditworthy farmers was chiefly a government response to the RDP stipulations.

"Banks look at each farmer's creditworthiness and any decisions taken about that farmer is purely in the interests of our business," one spokesman said. He admitted however that "certain farmers are not in a position to get any finance as they are unable to repay their loans".

Such a farmer could apply for a one-off government subsidy of up to R50 000 "and we could then look at the situation once again, but if a farmer cannot pay, then a decision has to be taken".

A spokesman for another bank said there were "definitely farmers who are in trouble" as a result of credit clamp-downs, and said that over the past 18 months, 900 of the country's 9 500 maize farmers closed.

A spokesman for the regional banking division of Standard Bank said that, to his knowledge, the bank did not follow a policy in regard to clamping down on credit to farmers.

A warning to farmers was given earlier this year by Dr Andre Louw, chief agricultural economist for ABSA and Volkskas.

He told the Agri-Tech 95 conference that commercial banks were facing "the challenge of making sound, economic decisions". Only economic and financially viable undertakings and farmers could be financed.

approach

474m 28/12/95

writes Kader Asmal

Water needs holistic

(3)

A recent article by James Clarke undermines a national conservation campaign,



"There is no need for water rationing, South Africa is simply not short of water, so why penalise the people?" This was the opening statement in James Clarke's recent *Back to Earth* column (Saturday Star, December 9).

The publication of Clarke's article coincided with the beginning of the near-record rains that have fallen in Gauteng during December, so I must tread carefully. But let me be blunt: it is a wild statement and, given Clarke's status as one of South Africa's premier environmental journalists, it subverts any attempt at a national water strategy and totally undermines our National Water Conservation Campaign.

As I read it, Clarke's argument is that the Zambezi River and the Zaire River both discharge many billions of tons of water into the sea; that South Africa has the money and the skills to divert part of the water and use it to supplement its own need; therefore we do not have a water crisis.

Sadly, life is often a little more complex

than such simplistic deductions. Here are some of the points that Clarke failed to consider (or failed to consider adequately):

■ Clarke glibly says "we have the money". Does he have any idea of the cost to bring water steeply uphill for well over 1 000 km? And what of the additional costs of treating and distributing the additional water?

■ It is not enough to say one can afford to build and run such a scheme (even if it were true). One also has to ask, what else could the money be used for? Have you thought about the opportunity cost of tens of billions of rands, Mr Clarke? What would such an investment mean if diverted rather to combat poverty, unemployment, crime, the low status of women, population growth, and all the other threats to the concept of sustainable living?

What of the environmental costs? For example, Clarke is surely aware that considerable additional energy would be needed to move the water, which would then be yet another contribution to the

threat of global warming.

■ What of the amount of time it would take to construct such a scheme? What if such a scheme were to take 20 years to be brought to fruition? What do we do in the interim, Mr Clarke? And what will the water demand be then?

■ What of security? What if some fanatics were to embark on a strategy to sabotage such a delivery of water to South Africa?

■ What of the needs and aspirations of neighbouring countries? The days of jack-booting across our neighbours' rights are over. We have no sovereign right to the water from either the Zambezi or the Zaire rivers. What do you think our neighbours would prefer: to bring the water here, or to take the jobs there?

I do not rule out possible negotiations with our neighbours over such a water transfer scheme. We must evaluate all options. But I want to make the point that Clarke's "solution" to our current water situation would be extremely expensive and time-consuming and would bring with it possibly unacceptable environmental and opportunity costs. There may well come a

time when the benefits of doing so outweigh the costs. But surely we should explore more efficient options first?

The water shortage is very real when the Vaal Dam reaches 15% of capacity and its major back-up (the Sterkfontein Dam) is at 44%, as was the case prior to the recent rains. What if the rains had not come, Mr Clarke?

Even with the recent rains, our sober judgment is that we still face an unacceptable risk with respect to water security in Gauteng in the immediate future - at least until the Lesotho Highlands Scheme comes on-stream. We cannot recklessly gamble that the rains will come. In any event, even taking into account Gauteng's water needs, there are other areas of South Africa with greater water demands.

I have adopted an alternative approach in dealing with the water problems facing Gauteng - one I would have thought Clarke would unequivocally support: the National Water Conservation Campaign.

The campaign aims for the equitable, ef-

ficient and sustainable supply and use of water. It is a massive undertaking to change the way in which we treat water, through education, incentives, disincentives, regulations and tariffs.

A component of the campaign that has had a little coverage in The Star has been the programme to eradicate invasive alien plants in water catchment areas. (At the launch of this programme a spokesman for WWF-South Africa described it as the single most important conservation programme running in South Africa.)

Other components of the campaign that have been given some coverage in The Star are the programmes to retrofit households with conservation measures; to develop national water by-law regulations, and to promote water-wise gardening.

We do not want to be at odds with someone who ought to be a prime partner in our efforts to promote sustainable living in South Africa. We need help in our endeavours, Mr Clarke.

■ Professor Kader Asmal is the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Dams fill, but water quotas are here to stay in new SA

(3) ~~Star~~
By WILLIAM-MERVIN GUMEDE

Water quotas will be a permanent feature of the daily lives of South Africans in the near future in spite of the filling of some of the country's dams in recent weeks, according to the water affairs and forestry department.

Communications head Christa Barnard said water shortages remain one of South Africa's biggest problems.

Water Affairs minister Kader Asmal announced this week that water restrictions in Gauteng are to be lifted following the good inflow of water into most of the province's dams.

Rand Water Board chief Vincent Bath said residents of the greater Johannesburg and Pretoria metropolitan areas would no longer pay penalties for exceeding quotas.

But he said in the long run "some kind of penalty system" would be imposed "to discourage wastage".

Barnard said a draft paper for a future water policy was in progress and should be ready in the first half of next year.

She said the paper would be a culmination of the department's water conservation campaign started in September.

Tony Heard, special adviser to Asmal, also warned that in spite of heavy rainfalls there was still a water shortage. "It remains a critical problem and people should continue to conserve water," he said.

The heavy rains have relieved the drought in most of the areas around the Vaal River system which includes Rustenburg, Kimberley, Welkom, Bethal, and Carletonville.

According to Barnard, the Vaal Dam is expected to reach maximum capacity today.

Barnard said it was vital that as much water as possible was stored in the Vaal River system to ensure adequate supplies for the next two years.

The dams in the Vaal River



Children watch the Vaal Dam's overflow PHOTOGRAPH: TRYS DULWAART

system supply water to Gauteng, as well as Sasol II, parts of the North-West and power stations in Mpumalanga.

The Sterkfontein Dam, a reserve for the Vaal Dam, was only 46% full and water still had to be used sparingly.

Despite good rains over much of South Africa's drought-stricken areas, several parts of the Northern Province remain disaster areas, agriculture department spokesman Gerry Mashapu said this week.

In the Letaba district the situation is so severe that water still has to be transported to the villages. More than one million citrus and subtropical fruit trees are said to have died in the protracted drought.

The Messina district is also still drought-stricken, while 30% of the Soutpansberg area, and parts of Phalaborwa and Koe-dostrand face severe drought.

Major dams have received little inflow and the available water may be used only by primary consumers.

Mashapu said livestock had decreased to less than 30% of the normal carrying capacity in most of these areas.

According to the water affairs department, water restrictions are beginning to be lifted in parts of KwaZulu Natal.

Barnard said water releases from the Klipfontein Dam regulate the flow in the White Mfolozi River. The Goedertrouw Dam however, is still only 40% full.